D-ERAS!
STORY AND ART
TOMOYA HARUNO
11

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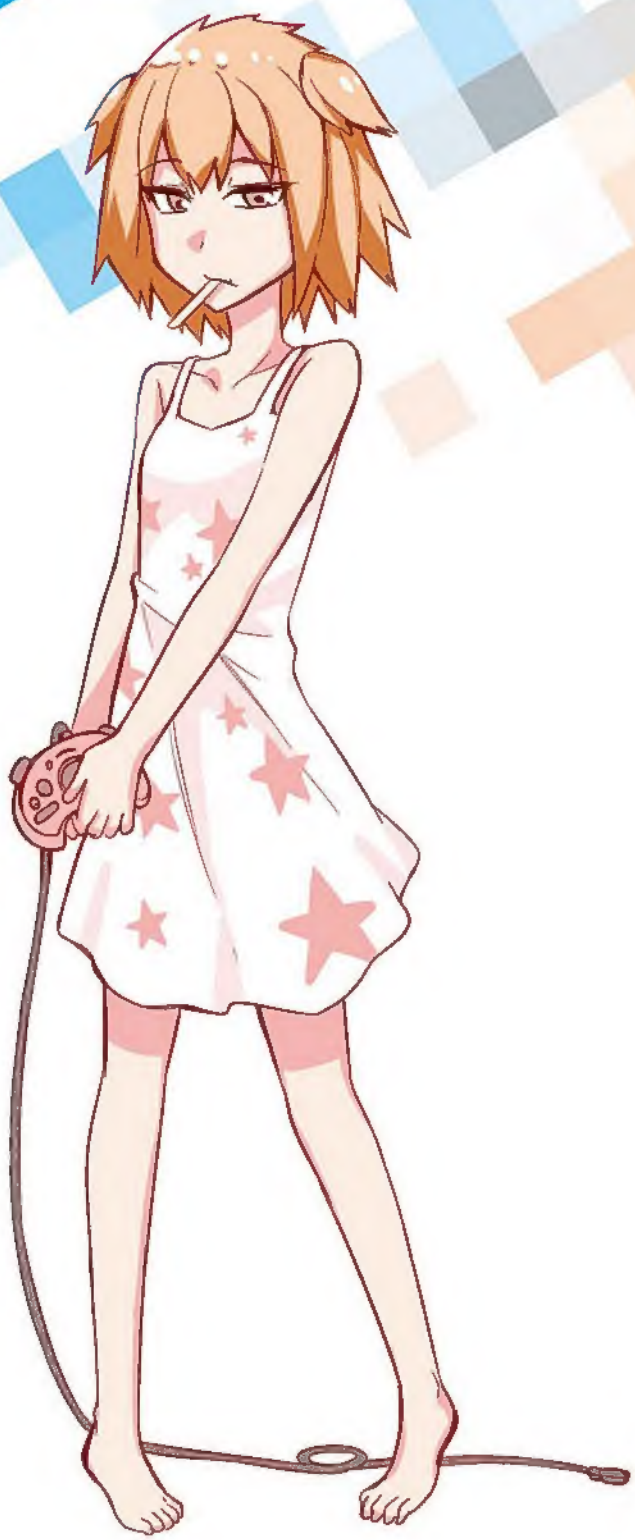
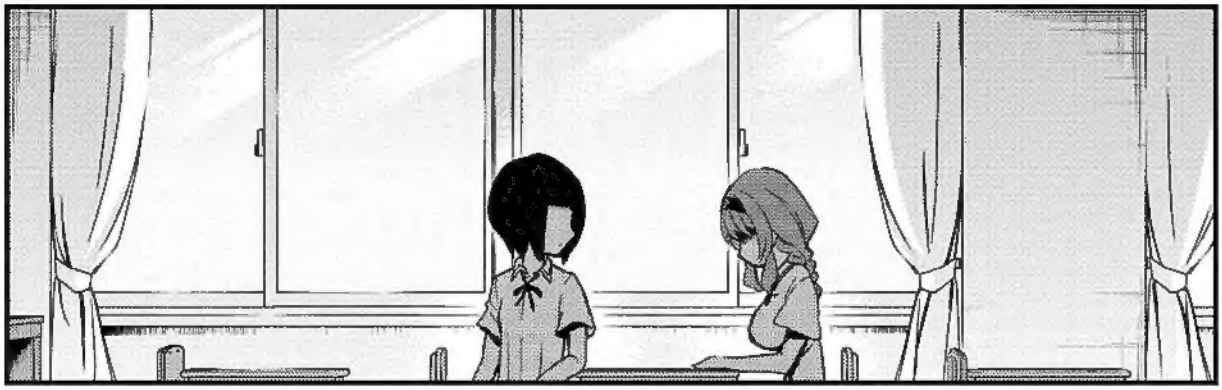
Retro Game
Punching
Punch!!
ディーふらぐ! 11
D-FRAGMENTS
Haruno Tomoyo presents

D-FRAG!





Chapter 76
No, This Story Sounds Way More Suspicious

grab

shvr
shvr
shvr
Mason's Curry!
Comes with a Special Mason Sticker!
I HAVEN'T STUDIED AT ALL!!

There was enough flashback content to fill ten manga volumes!
WELL, THAT TOOK A WHILE.

OH GOD, I'M REALLY IN TROUBLE. I AM IN SOOOO MUCH TROUBLE RIGHT NOW.
LOOKS LIKE IT.
FUKUNISHI-SAN, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?! I HAVEN'T STUDIED AT ALL SINCE THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTED!
I KNOW.
AT THIS RATE, SEMESTER FINALS ARE GONNA KILL ME!!
I KNOW.
IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING FAST, MOM MIGHT ACTUALLY DOCK MY ALLOWANCE!!
Bad girl!
AAAAUGH!!
WHAT? THAT'S ALL SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT?
A BRAND NEW MASON & THE MYSTERIOUS MANSION IS COMING OUT RIGHT BEFORE SUMMER VACATION STARTS, TOO!
Kitchen
Toilet
Dining
WHY IS THERE A BATHROOM BETWEEN THE KITCHEN AND THE DINING ROOM? IT'S A MYSTERY!
Oh god, oh god, oh god...
I THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT...

WE DON'T HAVE MANY DAYS LEFT UNTIL FINALS START!!
FUKU-NISHI-SAN, LET'S STUDY TOGETHER AND DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES TO SURVIVE!!

THANKS, BUT I'LL PASS.
WHAT? WHY?!
BECAUSE WHEN I GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, I'M TAKING OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
HUH?!
AND I DON'T NEED GOOD GRADES FOR THAT.

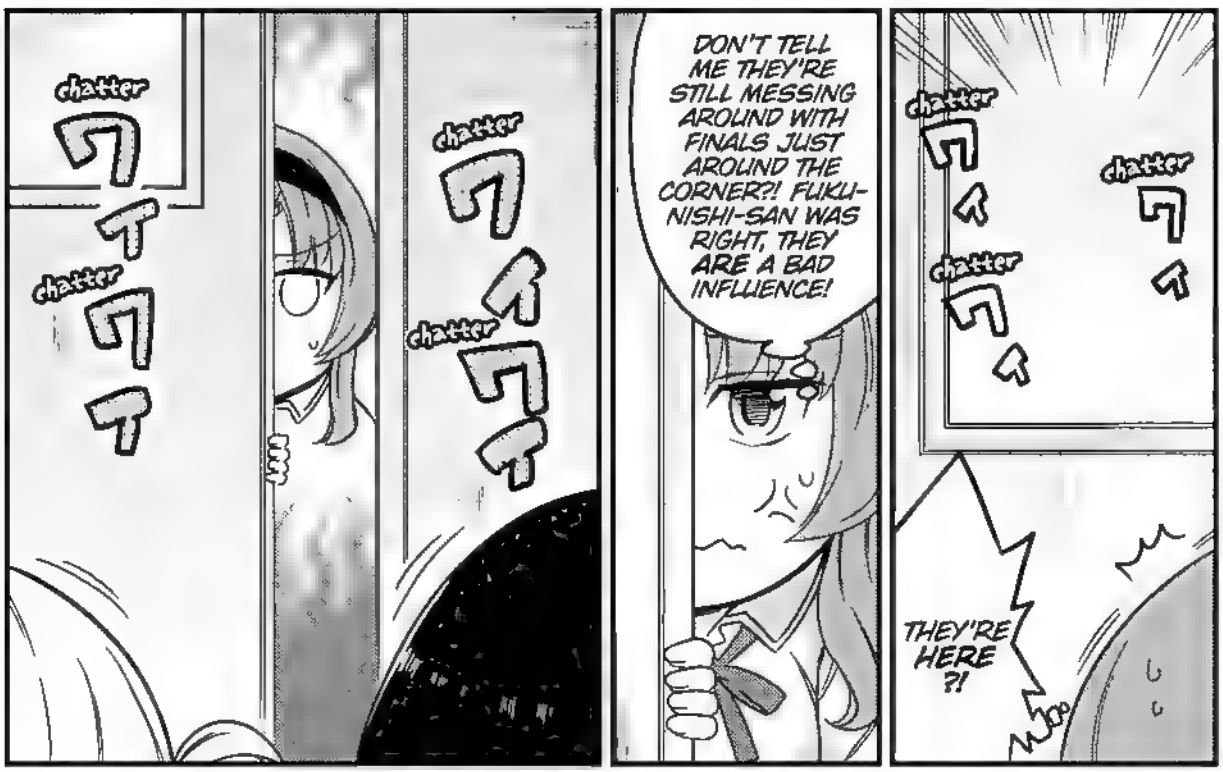
THE FUKUNISHI FAMILY HAS A LONG AND STORIED HISTORY AS FAMOUS POTTERS. I'VE BEEN TRAINING MY ENTIRE LIFE TO ONE DAY BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
WHAT?!
MY TECHNICAL TRAINING HAS ALWAYS TAKEN PRECEDENCE OVER GETTING GOOD GRADES.
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS, FUKUNISHI-SAN!!

DON'T GO SOME-WHERE I CAN'T FOLLOW !!
FUKU-NISHI-SAN!!
DON'T IGNORE ME! STOP PRACTICING, FUKUNISHI-SAN!!
ANYWAY, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS AND YEARS-- AND I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!!
I'M SORRY I KEPT IT SECRET FROM YOU.
BLUNT
IT'S FINE! JUST DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!!
BY THE WAY, TAKAO. WERE YOU ALWAYS THIS QUICK WITH THE COME-BACKS?
TH-TH-THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DON'T STUDY! I-IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND SOMEONE WHO'S GOOD AT THEM OR ANYTHING!
WHY ARE YOU PANIC-KING?
I'LL JUST GO STUDY WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
WHAT?
Hazy
Come to think of it, I have vague memories of some obnoxious guy quick with comebacks hanging around her lately...
OKAY. IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE THAT WAY, FINE.
Kuh-TUNK

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO STUDY WITH THE VERY GIRLS WHO DISTRACTED YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT.
I-I'LL BE FINE! DON'T WORRY!
I'M SURE ALL OF THEM ARE STUDYING HARD RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
IT'S THOSE WEIRD GIRLS IN THE GAME DEV. CLUB, ISN'T IT?
THE (TEMP) CLUB! (TEMP)!! THEY AREN'T IN MY CLUB!!
HEH...
I-I SAID I'LL BE FINE. I HAVE ANOTHER... F-FRIEND I CAN ASK.
GULP...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THEM?
UGH!
Seems intelligent.
Student Council President.
URK!
Genius?
I MIGHT BE WRONG, BUT A LOT OF THEM SEEM LIKE THEY MIGHT ACTUALLY BE SMART.
One is even Student Council President
SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT STUDYING...
BUT I'LL KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.
GOOD LUCK.
BUT I'M SURE IT'LL ALL WORK OUT.
.....
NOT THAT THIS PERSON SEEMS LIKE THE BEST STUDENT IN THE WORLD...

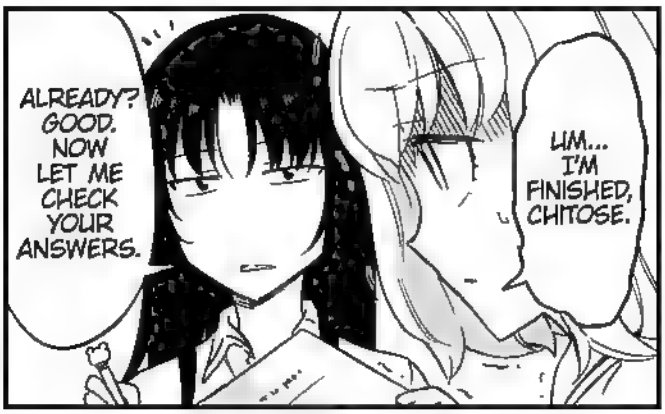
Game Development Club Temp!!!

WITH FINALS COMING UP, ALL CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED AND NO ONE CAN USE THEIR CLUB ROOMS.
CRAP. THAT'S RIGHT.
tp tp
OH!


chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE STILL MESSING AROUND WITH FINALS JUST AROUND THE CORNER?! FUKU-NISHI-SAN WAS RIGHT, THEY ARE A BAD INFLUENCE!
chatter
chatter
chatter
THEY'RE HERE ?!

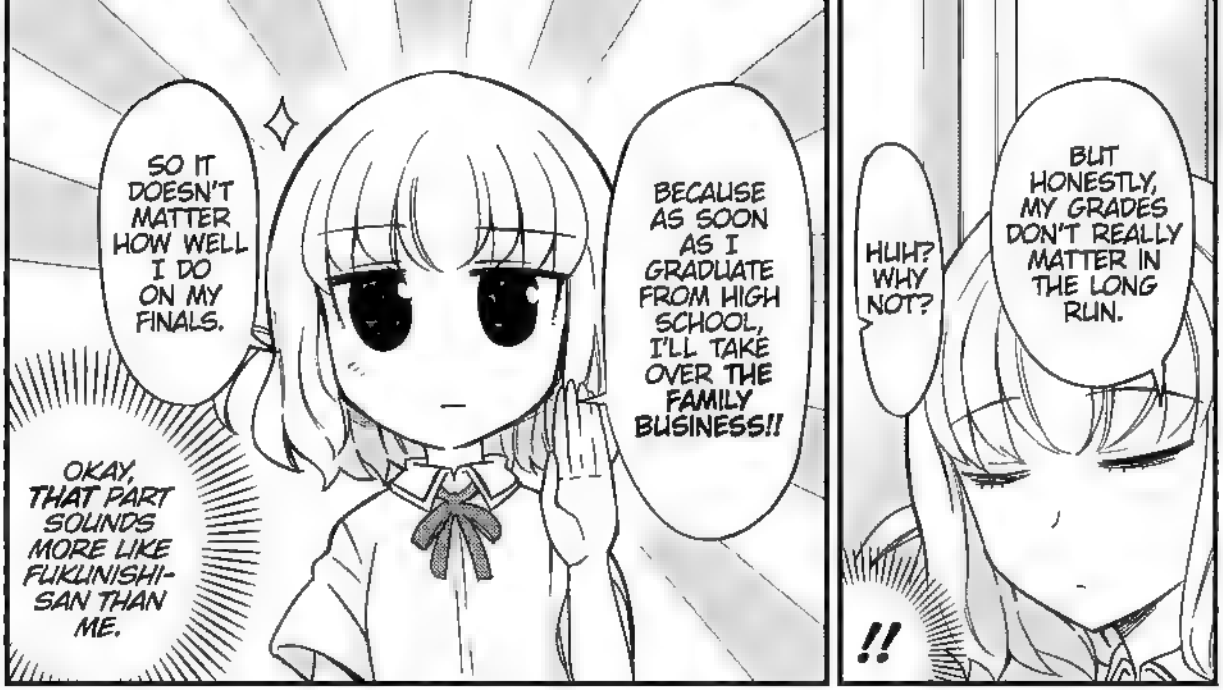
HOLY CRAP, THEY'RE ACTUALLY STUDYING ?!
I'm sorry I doubted you all!!

CHITOSE, ARE WE DONE YET? I WANT TO PLAY...
Gaaamer..!
NO.


UM... I'M FINISHED, CHITOSE.
ALREADY? GOOD. NOW LET ME CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT. SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE WE STARTED OUR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL...
THAT SOUNDS JUST LIKE ME, TOO!!

YOUR GRADES THIS YEAR HAVE TAKEN A NOSEDIVE COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING TO FIX THAT, IT COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT YOUR FUTURE.
URK !!
WOW. SO WE'RE BOTH IN THE SAME BOAT...


BUT HONESTLY, MY GRADES DON'T REALLY MATTER IN THE LONG RUN.
HUH? WHY NOT?
!!
BECAUSE AS SOON AS I GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL, I'LL TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS!!
SO IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WELL I DO ON MY FINALS.
OKAY, THAT PART SOUNDS MORE LIKE FUKUNISHI-SAN THAN ME.

THE SHIBASAKI FAMILY HAS A LONG AND STORIED HISTORY AS A FAMOUS DARK-AFFINITY CLAN, WHICH MAKES DARK CLOTH.
THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR ...
IN FACT, THE HISTORY OF OUR FAMILY'S DARK CLOTH IS SO LONG AND STORIED IT'S SAID THAT IT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FOUNDING OF A GREAT KINGDOM/NATION BY THE FIRST EMPEROR!
THAT'S -- WAIT A MINUTE...
RIGHT NOW, I BELIEVE IT IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT FOR ME TO WORK ON POLISHING MY SKILLS THAN IT IS FOR ME TO STUDY.
NO, THIS STORY SOUNDS WAY MORE SUSPICIOUS.

IT GOES LIKE THIS ...
swish
swish
swish
HEY. STOP PRACTICING AND KEEP STUDYING.
SHWAK

FUKUNISHI-SAN DID WHAT?!
HOLD IT!! FUKU-NISHI-SAN DID ALL THAT ALREADY !!

DUN

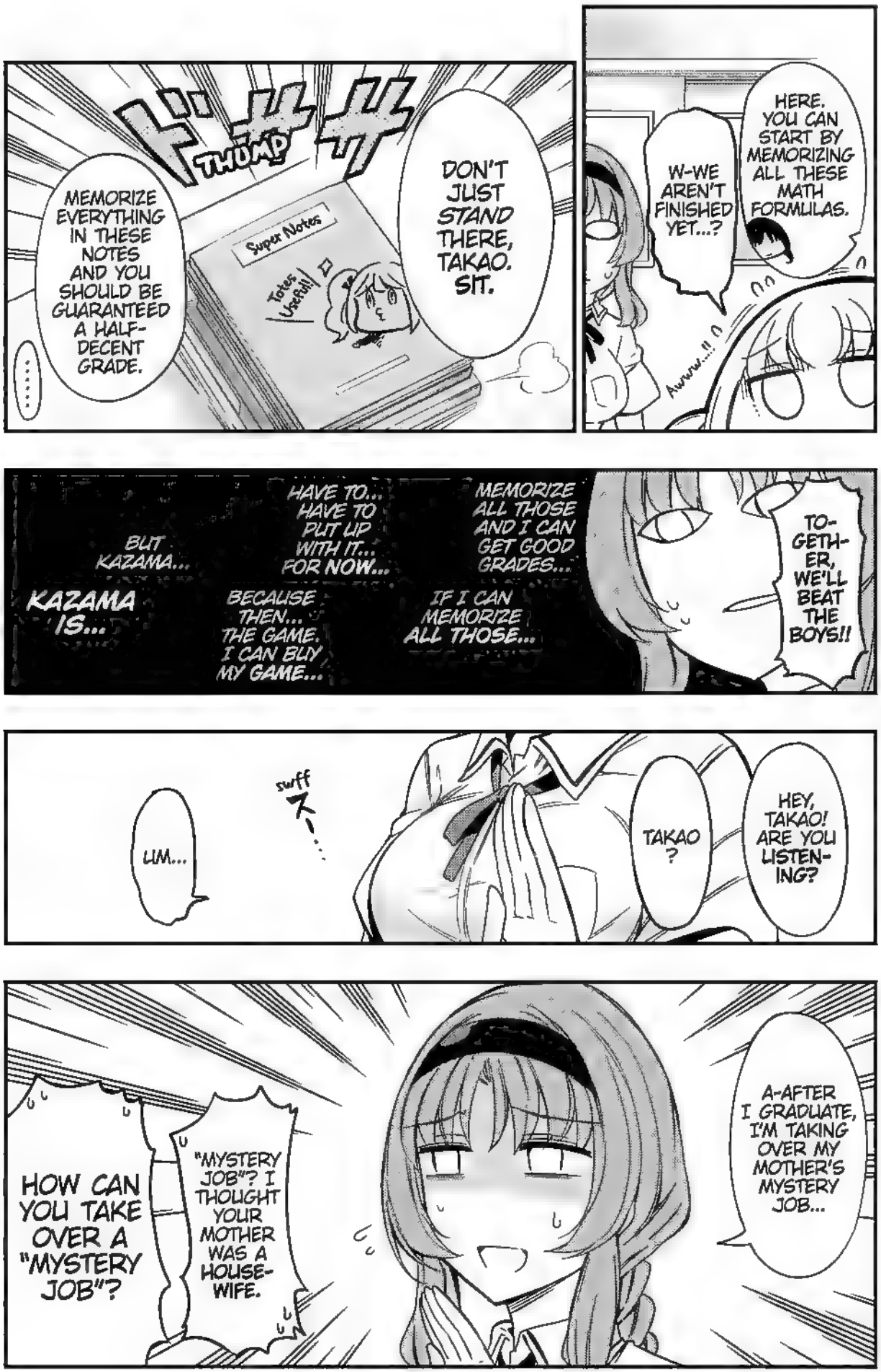
スマホ
スマホ
スマホ
GOOD-NESS! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, TAKAO-SAN?
UH, WE'RE TRYING TO STUDY HERE.

The EXTRA EXCITING WAHOO SISTERS
YOU STOPPED BY TODAY LOOKING FOR THIS, DIDN'T YOU?!
WHAT? NO! I DIDN'T-- WAIT, THAT CAME OUT ALREADY ?!

UM, A-ACTU-ALLY ...
Fidget もじょ
SINCE I'M HERE, I KINDA WANTED TO, UH...
もじょ Fidget
STUDY ...
I KNOW!

YOU DO REALIZE THAT IF ANYONE DISCOVERS YOU PLAYED AROUND IN HERE DURING THE LEAD UP TO FINALS...
OH? I WAS ACTUALLY JUST GETTING READY TO TAKE A SHORT BREAK FROM MY STUDIES.
BUT NOW ISN'T REALLY THE TIME FOR THAT...
AH, SO YOU CHOSE MASON OVER THE SISTERS, HM?
I WANTED TO PLAY IT SO BAD, BUT I TOLD MYSELF NO BECAUSE I ONLY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE NEW "MASON & THE MYSTERIOUS MANSION"!
!!
DOOM
OUR CLUB WILL LOSE ITS RIGHT TO HAVE A CLUB ROOM FOREVER.
SEAL
WE RECEIVED SPECIAL PERMISSION TO USE THIS ROOM FOR GROUP STUDY. MESS AROUND AND PLAY GAMES NOW, AND WE'LL BE IN DEEP TROUBLE LATER.
IF THEY FIND OUT-- AND THEY WILL FIND OUT--THAT BOTH CLUBS' CAPTAINS' GRADES SUDDENLY DROPPED OFF AT THE SAME TIME, THEY MAY JUST DISBAND OUR CLUBS ENTIRELY.

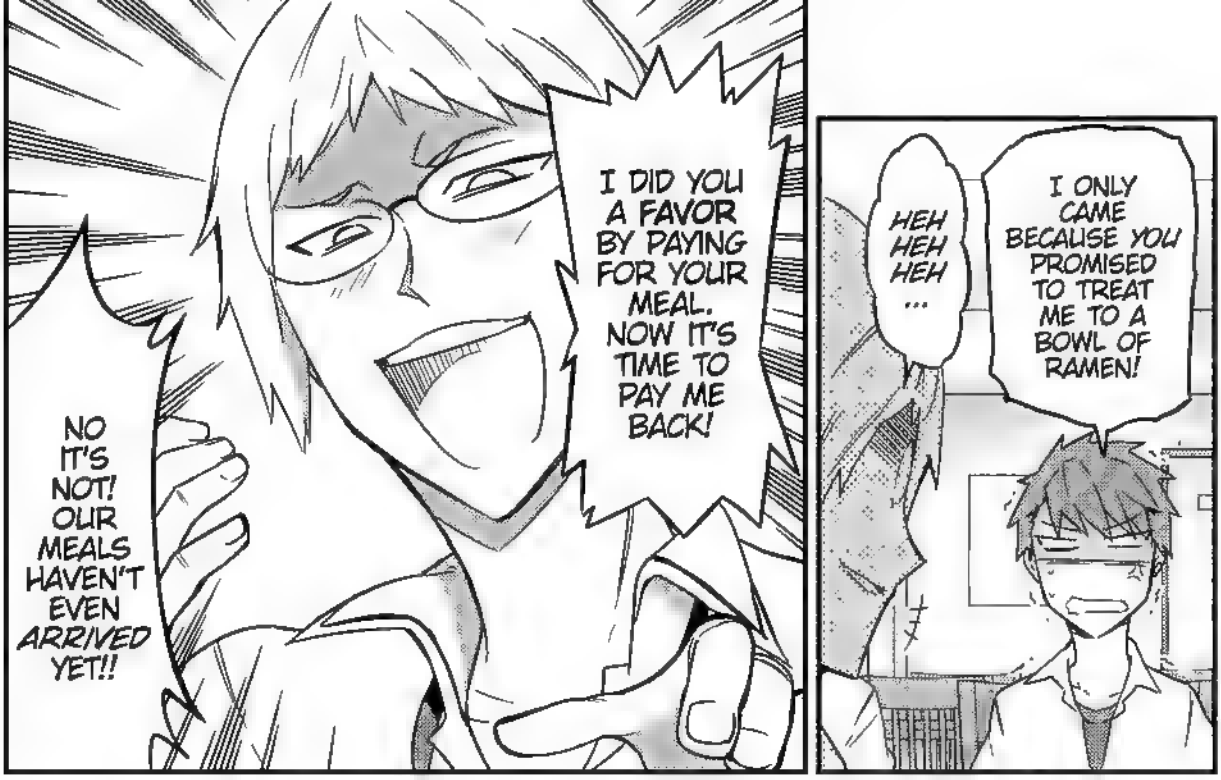
I CAN'T AFFORD TO! I MUST ALWAYS REMAIN ONE STEP AHEAD OF THAT DAMN STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT!!
THE VICE PRESI-DENT ?!
IS IT ME, OR IS SHE ESPE-CIALLY STRICT TODAY?
WELL, SHE IS THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT. I GUESS SHE CAN'T BE LAX ABOUT HER STUDIES AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
I'VE NEVER BEEN LAX ABOUT STUDY-ING.
pssst pssst
JUST THE THOUGHT OF THAT SMARMY WUSS BEATING ME IN ANY SUBJECT GIVES ME HIVES!
OH? DID YOU HAPPEN TO GET A LOWER GRADE THAN I DID?
WELL, WELL! MAYBE WE SHOULD RECONSIDER WHO GETS TO BE PRESIDENT AND WHO GETS TO BE VICE PRESI-DENT.
GRUNCH
100%
.....
OH! SPEAKING OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, THAT REMINDS ME.
glance
glance
WHAT IS IT?
ER... NOTHING, ACTUALLY.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR KAZAMA, HE ISN'T HERE.
THAT TRAITOR DECIDED TO STUDY WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT.
flinch
BUT YOU WON'T DO THAT, RIGHT? YOU'LL STUDY WITH US.
C'MON. WE'VE GOT LOTS TO COVER.


THUMP
Super Notes
Totes Useful!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, TAKAO. SIT.
MEMORIZE EVERYTHING IN THESE NOTES AND YOU SHOULD BE GUARANTEED A HALF-DECENT GRADE.
HERE. YOU CAN START BY MEMORIZING ALL THESE MATH FORMULAS.
W-WE AREN'T FINISHED YET...?
Awww...!!
TO-GETH-ER, WE'LL BEAT THE BOYS!!
MEMORIZE ALL THOSE AND I CAN GET GOOD GRADES...
IF I CAN MEMORIZE ALL THOSE...
HAVE TO... HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT... FOR NOW...
BECAUSE THEN... THE GAME. I CAN BUY MY GAME...
BUT KAZAMA...
KAZAMA IS...
HEY, TAKAO! ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
TAKAO ?
surff
スー...
UM...
A-AFTER I GRADUATE, I'M TAKING OVER MY MOTHER'S MYSTERY JOB...
"MYSTERY JOB"? I THOUGHT YOUR MOTHER WAS A HOUSE-WIFE.
HOW CAN YOU TAKE OVER A "MYSTERY JOB"?

Why yes,
I am a
housewife.
Honest!

D-FRAGMENTS

Chapter 77
Extra Al Dente
It Is, Then
THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT MUST BE DEFEATED AT ALL COSTS!!
ON THE UPCOMING FINAL EXAMS, THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSES!! NO HOLDING BACK!! NO MERCY!!
AH.
GOOD LUCK.
Muromi Special
BBQ Pork
Char Siu!
WAIT, IS THAT WHAT THIS IS?! YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THAT!!
THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU ALL HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS FINALS STUDY TIME CRAM SESSION.
KENJI, OLD BUDDY, OLD PAL. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME, OF COURSE!

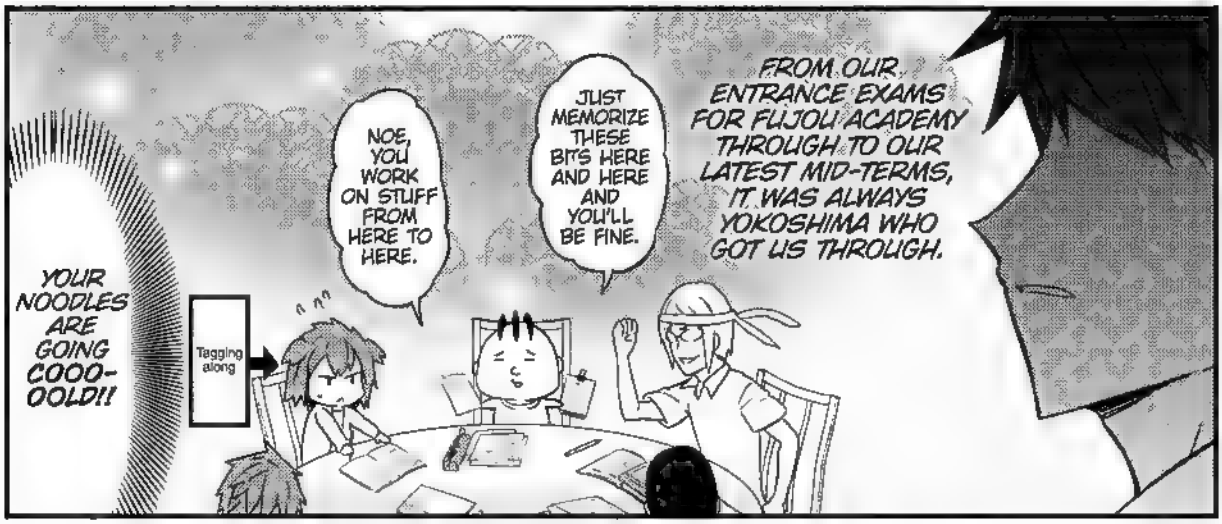

I DID YOU A FAVOR BY PAYING FOR YOUR MEAL. NOW IT'S TIME TO PAY ME BACK!
NO IT'S NOT! OUR MEALS HAVEN'T EVEN ARRIVED YET!!
I ONLY CAME BECAUSE YOU PROMISED TO TREAT ME TO A BOWL OF RAMEN!
HEH HEH HEH ...

HERE YOU GO, GUYS!
Welcome to Muromi Ramen!
WAH-WAAAH! YOU LOSE! THEY'RE HERE. NOW YOU GOTTA PAY ME BACK!
NO FAIR !!

A VICTORY BY MYSELF IS MEANING-LESS.
I WANT ALL OF US TO WIN TOGETHER!
ATARU ...
BUT SERIOUSLY, DUDE. MY GRADES HAVE NEVER BEEN MUCH BETTER THAN AVERAGE.
I'LL DO NOTHING BUT SLOW YOU GUYS DOWN.
C'MON. YOU KNOW ME, KENJI!

AHHHH, FRIEND-SHIP. WHAT A BEAU-TIFUL THING.
UM, SHIO? WHY EXACTLY ARE YOU HERE AGAIN?
I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT.
YES! LET US ALL WORK OUR VERY HARD-EST!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO DEFEAT OUR FINAL EXAMS AND ENJOY OUR SUMMER VACATION WITH LIGHT AND JOYOUS HEARTS!
W-WELL, UH...I DOUBT I'LL BE MUCH HELP IN OUT-DOING THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT GRADES-WISE, BUT I SURE DON'T WANNA FAIL.
.....
mutter...
IT'S GET-TING COLD ...
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT I PLEDGE TO GIVE MY UTMOST EFFORT IN HELPING ALL MY FRIENDS BEAT THE EXAMS!
UH ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY"? HE'S OUR FRIEND!
LET'S DIG IN!
YES. THE STEAM ISN'T FOGGING MY GLASSES SO MUCH NOW.
ANYWAY, FORGET TESTS AND STUDYING FOR NOW. LET'S EAT! I DON'T WANT MY NOODLES GETTING SOGGY.
NO, DON'T WAIT!!
EAT YOUR FOOD!!
!!
WAIT A SEC, GUYS!

AS THE NOTORIOUS LITTLE FOOT, ONE OF THE KAZAMA GANG'S FOUNDING MEMBERS, I, LITTLEFOOT YOKOSHIMA, HAVE NOT YET GIVEN MY APPROVAL OF THIS FINALS STUDY TIME CRAM SESSION IN WHICH ATARU, ANOTHER FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE KAZAMA GANG, HAS DECLARED HIS ATTEMPT TO OUTDO CURRENT STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT KARASUNO CHITOSE GRADE-WISE DURING OUR UPCOMING FINAL EXAMS...
YOU MIGHT HAVE ACCEPTED THINGS, KEN-CHAN, BUT I STILL HAVE MY DOUBTS!
COULD YOU DRAG THIS OUT ANY LONGER?! YOUR FOOD IS GOING COLD!!
TRUE... HE'S RIGHT... HE HASN'T...
WELL... IT ISN'T AS IF YOKOSHIMA HAS ANY NEED TO BE HERE IF YOKOSHIMA HAS NO DESIRE TO STAY...
AND BOY ARE THEY REALLY DRAGGING OUT THEIR SENTENCES!
YOU NEVER EVEN BOTHER TO STUDY AND YOU STILL END UP ONE OF THE TOP SCORERS IN OUR ENTIRE CLASS, YOU LUCKY JERK!!
STOP PROLONGING THIS!! YOU'VE ALL KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, RIGHT?! HOW IS ANY OF THIS NEW INFORMATION?!
AFTER ALL ...
YEAH. WE'VE ALWAYS LEANED TOO HEAVILY ON YOKOSHIMA TO CARRY US...
WHOA, HOLD IT! I KNOW THAT LOOK! YOU BETTER NOT BE DRIFTING INTO A FLASH-BACK!
MID TERM EXAMS
597pts Dai Mejiro
595pts Yokoshima
Shio Hachi
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DO RECALL SEEING YOKOSHIMA'S NAME HIGH ON THE LIST OF MID-TERM RESULTS.
OY, YOU! DON'T KEEP JAWIN'! BITE INTO YOUR FOOD INSTEAD!


FROM OUR ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR FUJOU ACADEMY THROUGH TO OUR LATEST MID-TERMS, IT WAS ALWAYS YOKOSHIMA WHO GOT US THROUGH.
JUST MEMORIZE THESE BITS HERE AND HERE AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
NOE, YOU WORK ON STUFF FROM HERE TO HERE.
Tagging along
YOUR NOODLES ARE GOING COOO-OOLD!!

YOKOSHIMA, I'M SORRY!! I'M YOUR FRIEND, BUT I'VE BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU!!
DUN
STOP BEING SO LONG-WINDED!

Murami Special
BBQ Pork
GYOZA
RAMEN

AH!

I'M NOT SURE I AGREE WITH THAT, MY FRIEND.
ONE BOWL OF RAMEN ISN'T GOING TO CUT IT.

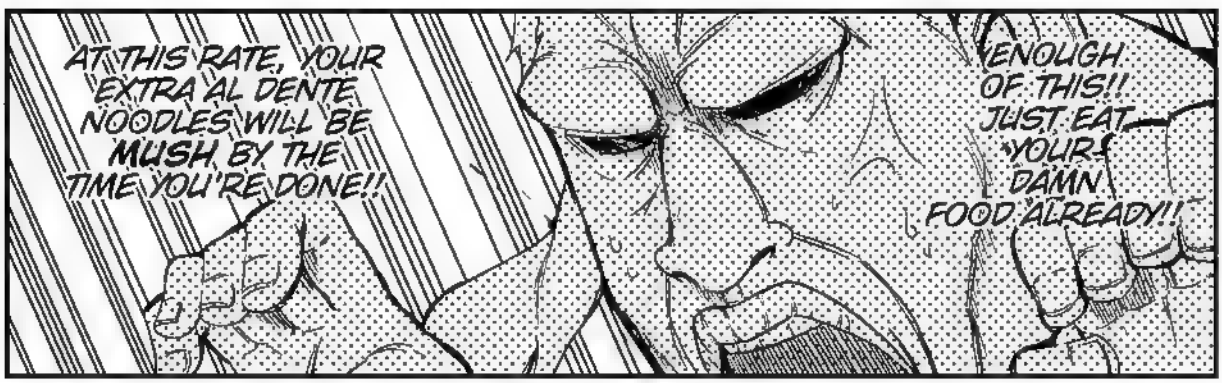
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS PAY FOR YOUR RAMEN, IN RETURN FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE.
FRIED

WHAT THE HECK?! DID YOU DRAG THINGS OUT THIS LONG JUST FOR A BITE OF YOUR FRIEND'S FOOD?!
DON'T MIND IF I DO!
swff
OKAY, OKAY. YOU CAN HAVE AS MUCH OF MY RAMEN AS YOU WANT, TOO.
YOINK
swooo
HERE I GOO-OO!
WHEN YOU GET THAT KIND OF CHANCE, YOU GO FOR THE GOOD STUFF, NOT THE NOODLES!
WHY DID YOU BOTHER GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO DIG UNDER THE PORK TO GRAB NOODLES?! YOU'RE AT MUROMI'S! GO FOR THE SPECIAL MUROMI BBQ PORK! YOU DO LIKE PORK, RIGHT?!
WHOA, THAT'S GOING A LITTLE TOO FAR MAN!
HE DIDN'T TAKE THE PORK?

HEY, WAITER! I'D LIKE ANOTHER SERVING OF NOODLES, PLEASE!
.....
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TAKEN A BITE AND NOW YOU'RE ASKING FOR SECONDS?!
DAD! EXTRA SERVING OF NOODLES !!
ON THE SOFT SIDE, PLEASE.
SHOP RECOM-MENDS EXTRA AL DENTE!
EXTRA AL DENTE IT IS, THEN.
Coming up!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT ON ME, GUYS. GO ON AND EAT.
NAH. EXTRA AL DENTE NOODLES WON'T TAKE LONG. WE'LL WAIT.
YES. IT IS ONLY POLITE FOR US ALL TO START EATING TOGETHER.

EXTRA AL DENTE NOODLES!
GUYS ...!!

I'M GOING TO GIVE IT MY ALL ON OUR FINALS!! I SWEAR!!
THANK YOU!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
GYOZA
GUYS, I...
I...!!


AT THIS RATE, YOUR EXTRA AL DENTE NOODLES WILL BE MUSH BY THE TIME YOU'RE DONE!!
ENOUGH OF THIS!! JUST EAT YOUR DAMN FOOD ALREADY!!

DAD
ARE YOU OKAY?
Y'KNOW, YOU'VE BEEN FIDGETING AND SQUIRMING BACK THERE THIS WHOLE TIME. IT'S KINDA CREEPING ME OUT.

DU-DUN
HUH? WE'RE EATING RIGHT NOW.
NO!! BECAUSE NONE OF YOU ARE EATING YOUR FOOD YET!!
GOD, WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN? WE'RE EATING, WE'RE EATING.
THIS ISN'T SUDDEN!! I'VE BEEN YELLING COMEBACKS AT YOU THIS WHOLE TIME!! IN MY HEAD!!
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT?!
YOU'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO, MASTER COMEBACK!!
MASTER COMEBACK?!
OUR CUSTOMERS MAY EAT THEIR NOODLES WHEN THEY ARE GOOD AND READY TO ENJOY THEM. THAT IS WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SAID. AFTER ALL, I AM A FIRM BELIEVER THAT DESIRE, ALONG WITH HUNGER, ARE TWO OF THE BEST SPICES IN THE WORLD. SO I'D LIKE FOR ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS TO TAKE THEIR TIME AND ONLY DIG IN WHEN THEY ARE FULLY READY TO EAT.
CONVERSELY, US PESTERING OUR CUSTOMERS TO DEATH ABOUT EVERY LITTLE THING IS ONE OF THE QUICKEST WAYS TO MAKE GOOD FOOD GO BAD.
THUS, I'D ASK YOU NOT TO DO IT.
NOW YOU'RE TAKING FOREVER, DAD! COULD YOU JUST SHUT UP AND LET THEM EAT ALREADY?! YOU MADE THESE NOODLES! DO YOU WANT THEM THINKING THEY'RE SOGGY?!
WAIT, MY SON.
DAD ?!

SLRP SLURRRP
ズルル
SLURR-SLURRRP
ズルル
ズルル
KENJI, I'M GONNA DO MY BEST ON OUR FINALS.
HUH? OKAY.
Muromi Sperial
BBQ Pork
Y-YEAH, WOULDN'T WANT THE NOODLES TO GET SOGGY.
WELL, UH... TIME TO DIG IN, I GUESS.
Muromi Sperial
BBQ Pork
CHAR SIU
.....
HEH HEH. WELL? HOW'S OUR RAMEN TASTING?
IT'S GOOD, RIGHT? YOU LIKE 'EM... RIGHT ?
I KNOW, RIGHT ?!
SO DON'T DO IT, SON.
?!
LET ME CORRECT WHAT I SAID EARLIER. THE QUICKEST WAY TO MAKE GOOD FOOD GO BAD IS TO HAVE MY SON STICKING HIS FACE IN YOURS WHILE YOU TRY TO EAT.

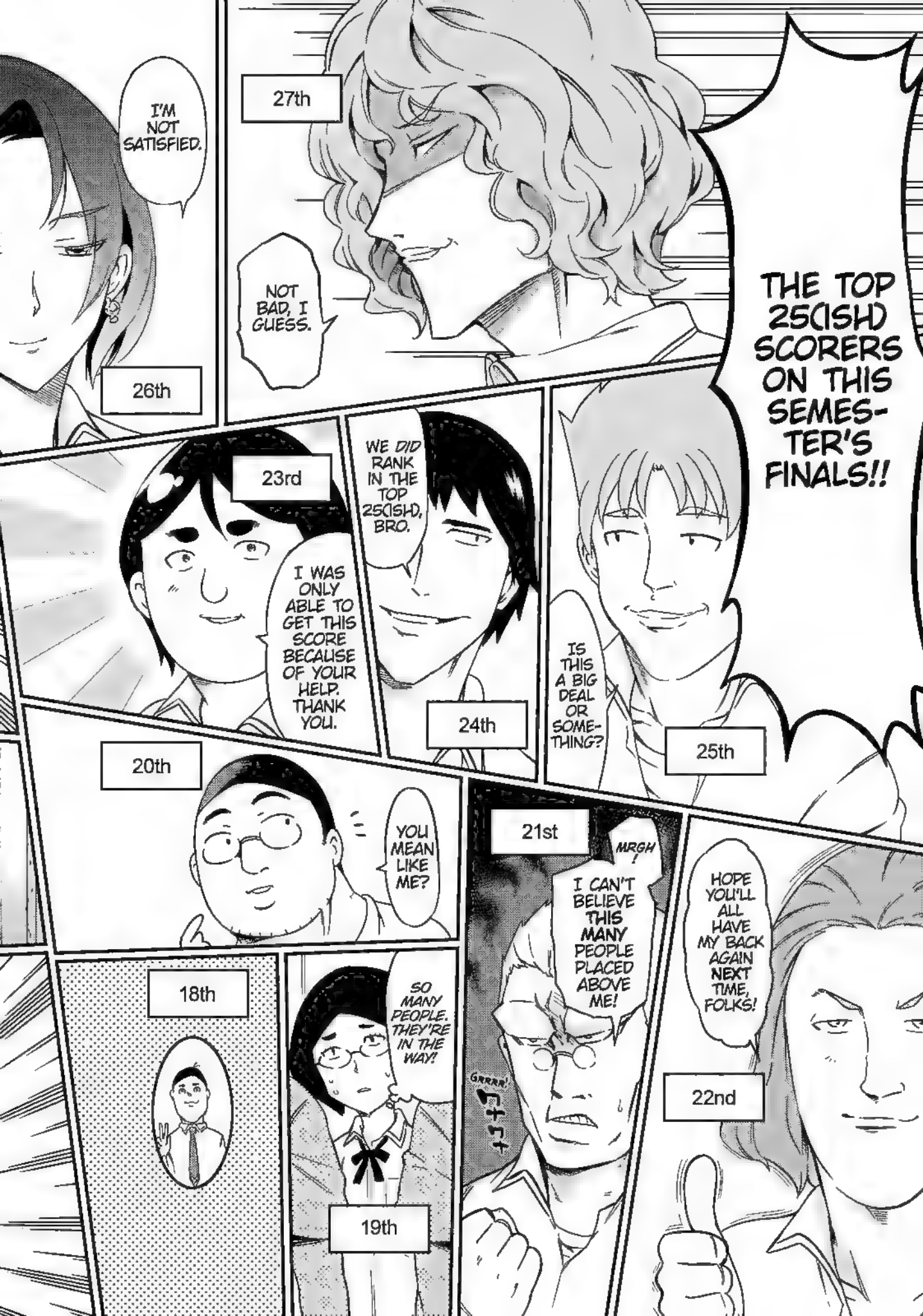
Yeah, I will. But you know you have to take the same tests too, right?

Ataru... give it your best on the final, okay?

D-FRAGMENTS

WE'RE BACK!!
YO! HOW'D YOU DO ON YOUR FINALS?
HM? OH, NOT BAD, NOT BAD.
C'MON, BRO! STOP BEING SO COY. LEMME SEE!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SEE THE ACTUAL SCORES FOR? I TOLD YOU-- THEY'RE NOT BAD!
IF THEY AREN'T BAD, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM LETTING ME SEE THEM!
NO, SERI-OUSLY BRO. I MEAN IT.
C'MO-OON! LEMME SEE! ♪
"NOT BAD"? HOW GOOD IS "NOT BAD"?
IT'S "NOT BAD," THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
GOD, WOULD YOU SHUT UP?! GET OUT OF MY FACE ALREADY! I SAID THEY'RE NOT BAD!!
!!
THAT'S NOT THE REACTION OF SOMEBODY WHOSE GRADES ARE "NOT BAD"!
THIS AURA ...!
tromp
tromp
YES. IT MUST BE THEM!!
KYAAAAAA-!
SHITTTTNe
AH ...!!

14th
LET'S GO ASK ABOUT THE QUESTIONS WE MISSED!
15th
16th
YEAH. SHE'S HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE US.
17th
WELL DRAT! FUNABORI BEAT ME AGAIN.
26th
I'M NOT SATISFIED.
27th
NOT BAD, I GUESS.
THE TOP 25(ISH) SCORERS ON THIS SEMESTER'S FINALS!!
11th
THIS IS GREAT!
12th
13th
23rd
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET THIS SCORE BECAUSE OF YOUR HELP. THANK YOU.
24th
WE DID RANK IN THE TOP 25(ISH), BRO.
25th
IS THIS A BIG DEAL OR SOMETHING?
8th
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING OVERLOOKED ...
9th
WHOOT! TOP TEN, BABY!
10th
I WANTED TO MAKE THE SINGLE DIGITS!
20th
YOU MEAN LIKE ME?
21st
MRGH
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS MANY PEOPLE PLACED ABOVE ME!
GRRRR
22nd
HOPE YOU'LL ALL HAVE MY BACK AGAIN NEXT TIME, FOLKS!
18th
19th
SO MANY PEOPLE. THEY'RE IN THE WAY!
5th
NICE PASS, BRO!
whap!
6th
I... I lost...
7th
PASS!
zip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NOT BAD, I GUESS.
26th
I'M NOT SATISFIED.
25th
IS THIS A BIG DEAL OR SOMETHING?
24th
WE DID RANK IN THE TOP 25(ISH), BRO.
23rd
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET THIS SCORE BECAUSE OF YOUR HELP. THANK YOU.
22nd
HOPE YOU'LL ALL HAVE MY BACK AGAIN NEXT TIME, FOLKS!
21st
MRGH
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS MANY PEOPLE PLACED ABOVE ME!
GRRRR
ﾅｰﾌﾟ
20th
YOU MEAN LIKE ME?
19th
SO MANY PEOPLE. THEY'RE IN THE WAY!
18th

LET'S GO ASK ABOUT THE QUESTIONS WE MISSED!
14th
15th
YEAH. SHE'S HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE US.
16th
WELL DRAT! FUNABORI BEAT ME AGAIN.
17th
THIS IS GREAT!
11th
12th
13th
8th
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING OVERLOOKED ...
9th
WHOOT! TOP TEN, BABY!
10th
I WANTED TO MAKE THE SINGLE DIGITS!
NICE PASS, BRO!
what?
5th
I... I lost...
6th
7th
PASS!
zip

Chapter 78
He Says It's On the House

CHABO
茶房
Coff
ERM... AHEM!
TO ANOTHER SEMESTER, OVER AND DONE WITH.
Order some-thing.
Don't toast with just water.
CHEEEERS!!
.....
Unranked.
I'M JUST GLAD I MANAGED NOT TO FAIL ANY-THING.
Unranked
Unranked.
PHEW...
SOME-HOW I PASSED ALL MY SUB-JECTS, BUT IT WAS... CLOSE.

IT SEEMS WE BOTH ESCAPED HAVING TO TAKE ANY MAKE-UP TESTS THIS SEMESTER, KAZAMA-SAN.
HUNCH
YEAH. MAKE-UP TESTS ARE A TOTAL PAIN IN THE BUTT. AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL THAT.
THAT?!
YEAH... WHAT A PAIN...
ER... ARE YOU SURE IT WAS WISE FOR YOU TO JOIN OUR "FINALS ARE OVER" CELEBRATION?
HM? YEAH.
ATARU'S "PARTY" WAS SO FULL OF DOOM AND GLOOM IT WASN'T REALLY A PARTY AT ALL.
BUT WHY? HE MADE THE TOP TEN.
COMPARED TO ME, HE'S...
WAIT A MINUTE. DON'T TELL ME...

Somebody order something!
NOT ALL OF THEM! JUST ONE!
NOT ONLY THAT, THE AVERAGE SCORE ON IT WAS WAY HIGH!
YOU FLUNKED AND HAVE TO DO MAKE-UPS?!
shake
shake
shake
AH! NO! IF YOU LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED, IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
Y'KNOW, I ALWAYS FIGURED YOU FOR THE STUDIOUS TYPE...
hmph
NO-THING.
?.?.?
What, Aniki? He's not home.
I'm going to study with Kazama!
Whaaaat?! Study with us!!
Takao-san ran away!
WHAT?
I can't find him any-where...
TAP
TAP

TAKAO-SAN, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. LET'S CALM DOWN, SHALL WE?
LET'S ORDER SOMETHING TASTY AND SWEET FROM THE MENU AND FORGET ALL ABOUT THAT FOR NOW.
SOME-THING SWEET ...?
BUT... MY MOM'S FOR SURE GOING TO DOCK MY ALLOWANCE NOW...
SO I HAVE TO SAVE MY MONEY.
THEN WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?!
I CAME BE-CAUSE I JUST COULD-N'T STAND BEING ALONE.
DO YOU NOT WANT FAILU-RES AR-OUND ...?
NO, NO, IT'S COOL !!
WHAT, SO YOU'RE NOT GONNA ORDER ANYTHING AT ALL?
.....
THEN GET LOST.

WHAT?!
BARTENDER, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO...
shimes
HEY, UH...
DRAT. THIS REALLY IS A LOST CAUSE.
HRRM... IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN "ADJUST" THE POINT TOTALS TO HIDE THE FAILING GRADE? NO?
thunk
BAR-TENDER !!
GOOD LUCK!
HE SAYS IT'S ON THE HOUSE.
THIS IS FROM THE BAR-TEND-ER.

YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE UP FOR YOUR GAME, RIGHT?
BUT ...
TAKE IT.
LET US DO THE ORDERING. YOU ENJOY YOUR PANCAKES. GOT IT?
KA-ZAMA ...
OKAY!
I WILL. THANKS, KAZAMA.
I DON'T THINK I CAN ACCEPT THIS.
YES. THIS IS GROSSLY UNFAIR.
Mmm! So yummy!!
I'm going to keep trying and study hard!
MR. BAR-TENDER, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
.....

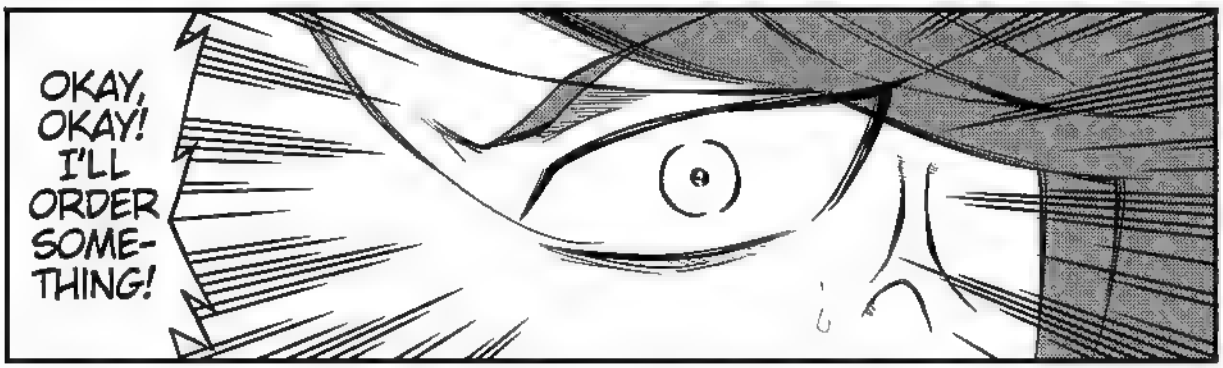
I STUDIED HARD AND SCORED THIRD ON FINALS, UNLIKE SOMEBODY I COULD NAME. BUT SHE GETS FREE FOOD.
プル shake
プル shake
プル shake
プル shake
URK!
ME, TOO! I ACTUALLY STUDIED AND DIDN'T FAIL ANY OF MY TESTS, UNLIKE SOMEBODY I COULD NAME. BUT SHE GETS FREE FOOD.
SHUT UP, YOU WHINERS!
AH!
THEY... THEY'RE RIGHT. I DON'T DESERVE TO EAT THIS.
hmf
NO, EAT! EAT IT, DAMN-IT!!
fwuf
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?! SERI-OUS-LY!!
YOU DO REALIZE THEY HAVEN'T ORDERED A THING YET, RIGHT?!
SKSSH
GOOD JOB, BOTH OF YOU! ANOTHER PLATE IS COMING RIGHT UP.
WHAT?! YOU MADE THEM FOOD TOO, BAR-TENDER?!

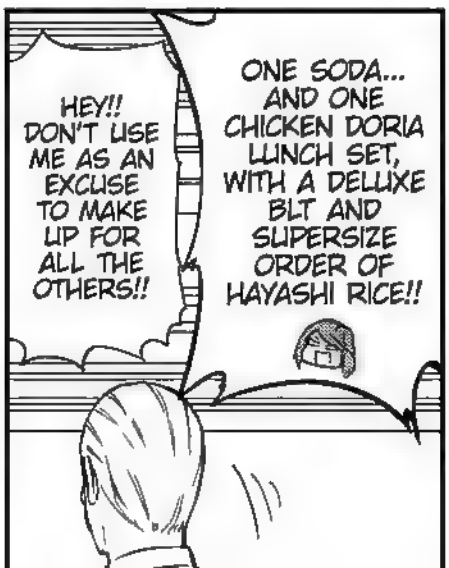
I STUDIED HARD AND (BARELY) SCORED IN THE TOP RANKS ON MY TESTS, THEN CAME RIGHT HERE TO WORK! BUT YOU DON'T HEAR ME ASKING FOR FREE FOOD!
WAIT, NO... SENPAI, DON'T ...!!

NOM うま NOM うま
NOM うま NOM うま
THEY'RE JUST A PACK OF SHAME-LESS MOO-CHERS !!
STUDYING FOR TESTS IS NORMAL! YOU SHOULDN'T EXPECT A REWARD FOR IT!

GLARE
flinch

I'D RATHER YOU GIMME A RAISE THAN FREE PANCAKES, BAR-TENDER!!
IF YOU DON'T WANT 'EM, DON'T EAT 'EM!
ふわわ
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!
THERE, SEE?!

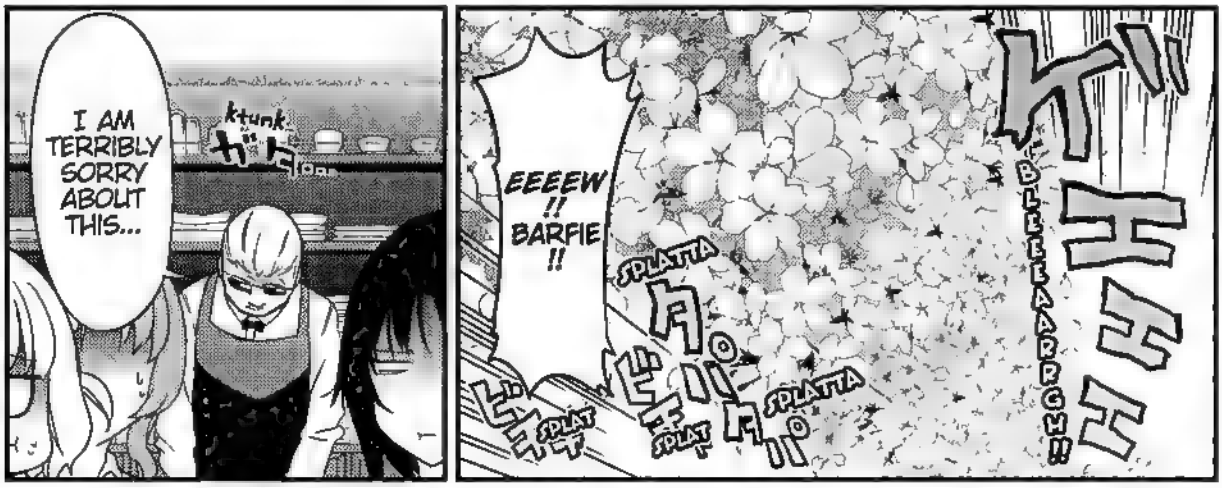

OKAY, OKAY! I'LL ORDER SOME-THING!


ONE SODA... AND ONE CHICKEN DORIA LUNCH SET, WITH A DELUXE BLT AND SUPERSIZE ORDER OF HAYASHI RICE!!
HEY!! DON'T USE ME AS AN EXCUSE TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE OTHERS!!

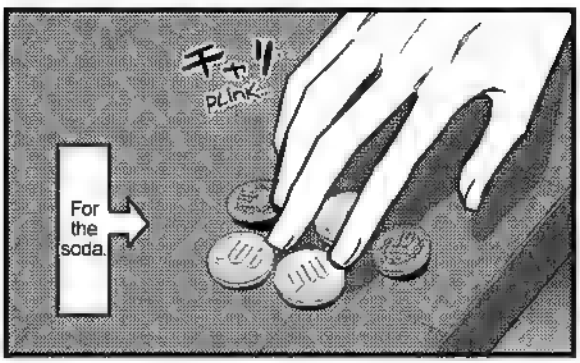
Um...
OKAY ...
ONE SODA.
.....

UR...
.....
SKSHH
CAT!
WOW, YOU MADE THOSE REALLY FAST!!
WHY AM I GET-TING THIS?!
URRA-AAAA-AAAA-AAAH!!
HEY!! THAT WAS MINE!!
MY PAN-CAKES!!
B-BUT I WAS SAVING THAT LAST BITE!!
Ulp!
URF... CRAP! THAT WAS TOO MUCH TOO FAST...
FEAH! MAPH FOO FAFAA OPHA FA-AH MEPHOO! <THERE! NOW YOU HAVE TO ORDER FROM THE MENU!>
FWE-FUM!! <WEL-COME!>
Urrrrp!
FWAH? <WHA?>

YO! LIKE, WORKING HARD OR HARDLY WORKING?
I'LL HAVE AN ORDER OF PANCAKES, PLEASE. JUST PUT IT ON BARFIE'S TAB, LIKE USUAL.
ULP!

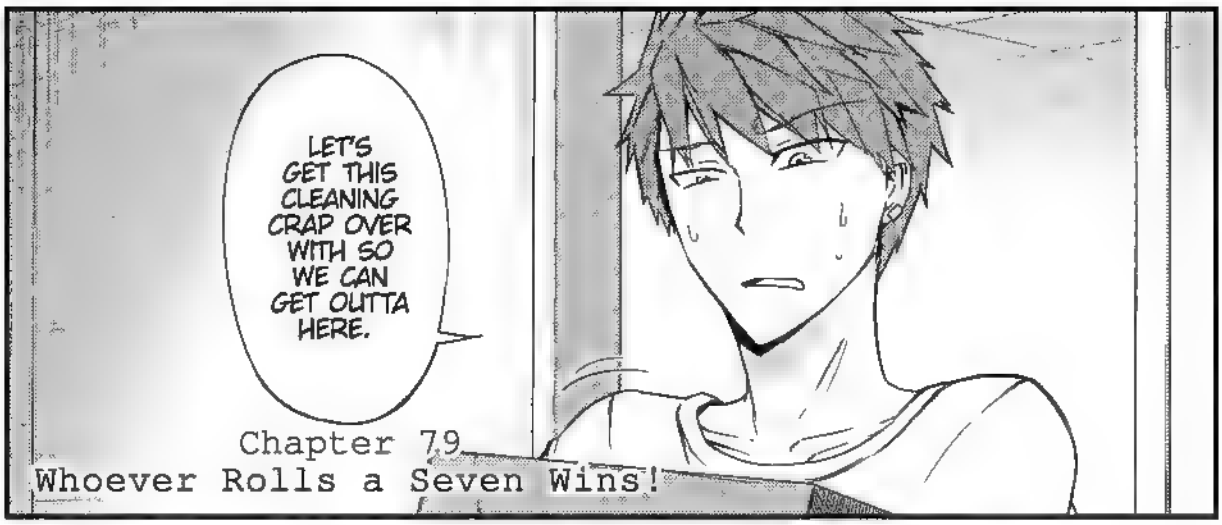

I AM TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THIS...
ktunk
EEEEW!! BARFIE!!
SPLATTA
SPLAT
SPLATTA
SPLAT
BLEEEAARRGH!!

TO MAKE UP FOR IT, YOUR MEAL IS ON THE HOUSE!
PLEASE ORDER WHATEVER YOU WISH!
NOW IT'S ALL FREE?!


For the soda.
PLINK

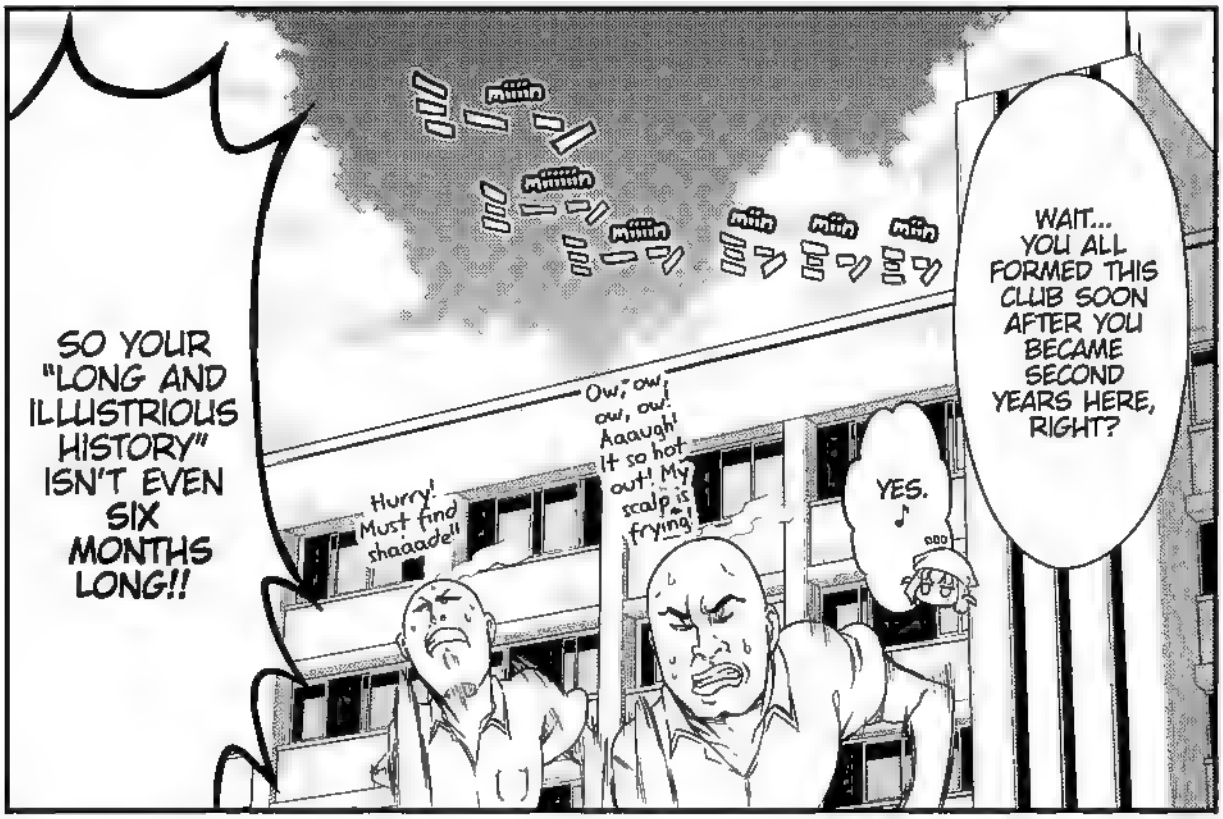
LIKE, WOW! GENEROUS AS ALWAYS, BARTENDER!!
I RECOMMEND THE OMURICE.
SPAGHETTI!!
I'LL HAVE THE CHILLED CHINESE NOODLES.
ktunk

D-FRAGMENTS



Chapter 79
Whoever Rolls a Seven Wins!

AH! PLEASE HANDLE THOSE BOXES WITH CARE.
Pat
THEY ARE FILLED WITH THE PRECIOUS MEMORIES OF OUR CLUB'S LONG AND ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY.
HUH?

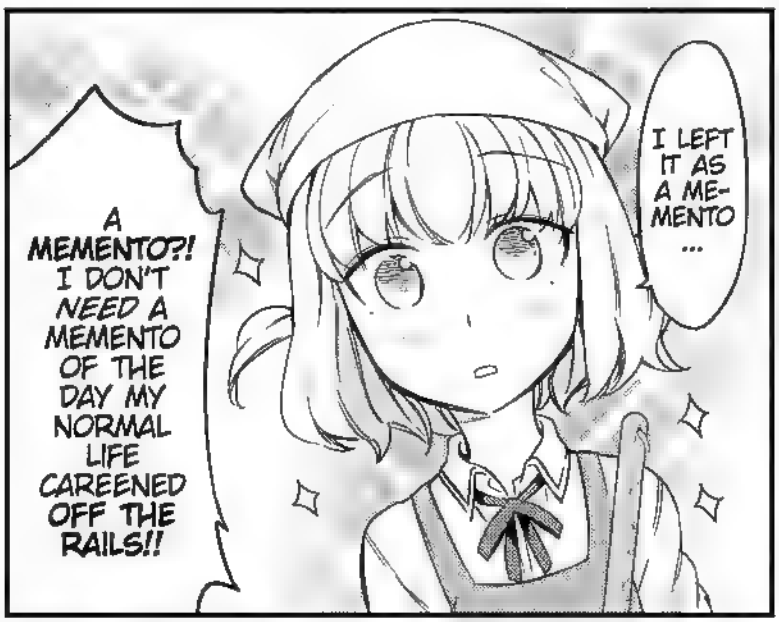

WAIT... YOU ALL FORMED THIS CLUB SOON AFTER YOU BECAME SECOND YEARS HERE, RIGHT?
YES. ♪
Ow, ow, ow, ow! Aaaugh! It so hot out! My scalp is frying!
Hurry! Must find shaaade!!
SO YOUR "LONG AND ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY" ISN'T EVEN SIX MONTHS LONG!!

AND WHAT AN EVENTFUL SIX MONTHS THEY'VE BEEN! ♪
TRUE. EVENTFUL ENOUGH TO COMPLETELY CHANGE MY OUTLOOK ON LIFE...

PRECISELY! AFTER ALL, TOMORROW IS THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION.
IN A SHOW OF RESPECT TO THIS SPACE AND THE EVENTS HELD HERE, WE OUGHT TO MAKE IT NICE AND PRISTINE BEFORE WE LEAVE.

God, it's hot.
WE DECIDED TO CLEAN UP THE CLUB ROOM TODAY SINCE ANOTHER SEMESTER'S STARTING SOON.

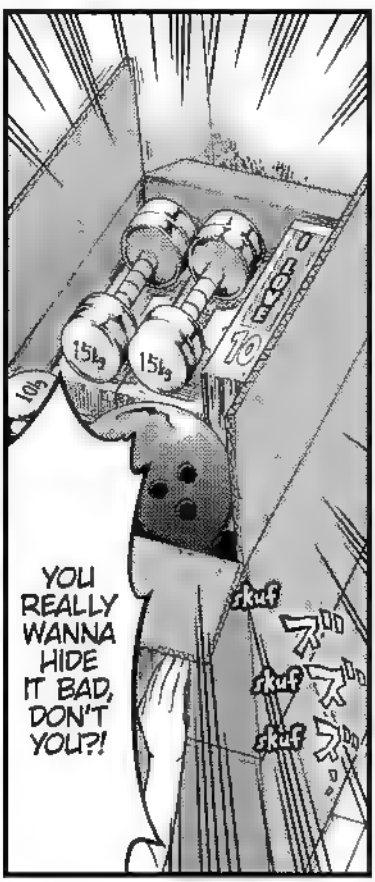
QUITE A LOT HAPPENED IN HERE ...
Oooh, fireworks are pretty.
FIRE !!
EARTH PUNCH !!
MRRPH!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES FROM BEFORE I JOINED?!

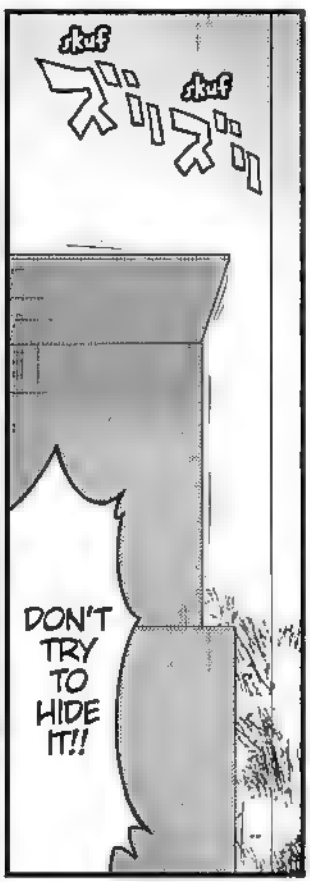

I LEFT IT AS A MEMENTO ...
A MEMENTO?! I DON'T NEED A MEMENTO OF THE DAY MY NORMAL LIFE CAREENED OFF THE RAILS!!

skuf
ズ゛ッ ズ゛ッ゛
skuf
skuf
YOUR ARRIVAL WAS A MONU-MENTAL EVENT.
YOU LOT HAD AN IMPACT ON ME, TOO... PHYSI-CALLY!
WAIT... THAT BURN MARK IS STILL THERE?!

YOU DON'T...?

Aside from Minami-sensei.
IT WOULD BE REALLY BAD IF ANY OF THE FACULTY WERE TO DISCOVER IT...
THEN CLEAN IT UP!!


15kg
15kg
10kg
10
YOU REALLY WANNA HIDE IT BAD, DON'T YOU?!
skuf
skuf
skuf


skuf
ズ゛ッ ズ゛ッ
skuf
DON'T TRY TO HIDE IT!!

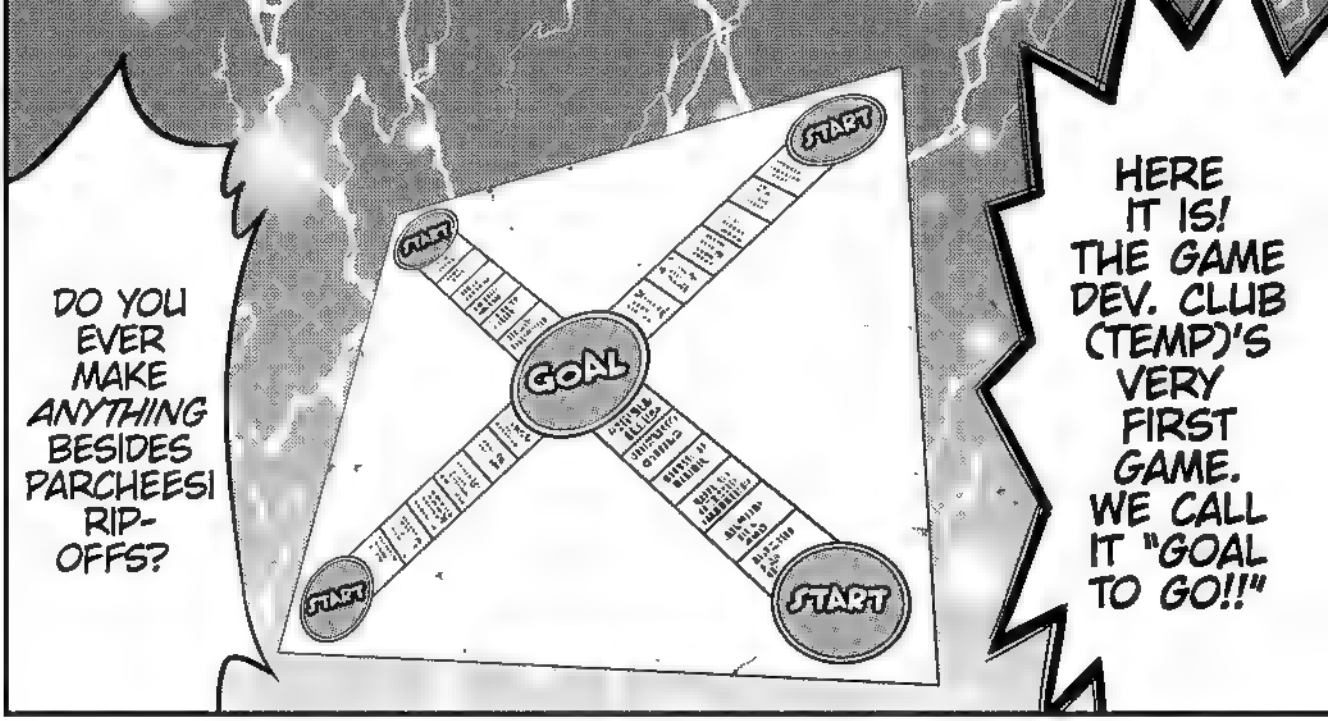
WHEW! THERE. ALL DONE. ♪
SHIO?
HOLY CRAP, THAT CORNER IS ACTUALLY SHINING! DON'T TELL ME YOU PLAN TO KEEP THAT CORNER AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL SEAT NEXT SEMESTER, TOO?!
HA HA HA! I WON'T GIVE IT UP TO YOU SO EASILY, KAZAMA-KUN. ♪
YOU CAN HAVE IT!!
OKAY, NOW THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!!
SWIF
AH, I SEE! SO I CLEAN... AND ROKA-SAN MAKES IT DIRTY. THEN I CLEAN... AND SHE MAKES IT DIRTY AGAIN.
IT'S AN END-LESS LOOP!
SHVP
UM, WHY DO YOU LOOK HAPPY ABOUT THAT?!
OHO! SO YOU MEAN TO MAKE THIS INTO A GAME TO SEE WHO'LL BREAK FIRST?
WHAT IS WITH THESE TWO USELESS IDIOTS?!

ズズズ…
DOOOOOM…
HM?
FWOOOOOSH
AT THIS RATE, THEY'LL NEVER BE DONE CLEANING!
swish
rub
YEAH. RIGHT NOW WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE THAT COULD ALTER THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE CLUB.
A BATTLE?
OKAY. WHAT ARE YOU TWO STARING AT?
DON'T INTERRUPT.
YES! TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF ARTISTIC THEME WE WILL USE TO DECORATE THE ROOM!
THERE'S ALREADY ENOUGH JUNK IN HERE! DON'T ADD MORE!!
WATER
JUNK?! DID YOU SERIOUSLY JUST CALL THIS JUNK?!
YOU PLEBIAN! CAN'T YOU SEE THE DEEP, ARTISTIC MERIT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT?!
AUGH! THIS IS SUCH A PAIN!!

JUST LOOK AT THIS BEAUTIFUL FORM!
AT LEAST CLEAN THE DIRT OFF IT BEFORE YOU BRING IT IN!
THE THEME IS NATURE! I'M LEAVING IT IN ITS NATURAL STATE!!
THEN LEAVE IT IN NATURE!
HMPH. IT IS NO MATCH FOR MY MODERN ART DISPLAY.
ART?! YOU CAN FIND THOSE THINGS ANYWHERE!!
NOPE! NOT ANYMORE. THE BOTTLE DESIGN ON THE RIGHT HAS GONE OUT OF PRODUCTION.
SO IT'S THE BOTTLES YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, NOT THE WATER?!
WATER
WATER

MRRRGH! AT THIS RATE, WE'LL BE STUCK IN A STALEMATE FOREVER!
Well, since neither of you are willing to compromise...
IT SEEMS WE MAY HAVE TO FIND AN ALTERNATE METHOD OF SETTLING THIS.
Huh?
YES. IT SEEMS THAT IS OUR ONLY RECOURSE.
What the heck?
HAAH! HAAH!
AH, YES, JUST THINKING ABOUT IT BRINGS BACK FOND MEMORIES. I DUG IT OUT OF A BOX JUST A BIT AGO.
swif swif swif swif swif
So, what is it?!

THE FIRST GAME THAT THIS CLUB MADE!!
THE FIRST GAME YOU MADE?!


DO YOU EVER MAKE ANYTHING BESIDES PARCHEESI RIP-OFFS?
START
START
GOAL
START
START
HERE IT IS! THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP)'S VERY FIRST GAME. WE CALL IT "GOAL TO GO!!"

HOWEVER, AT THE BEGINNING YOU ONLY HAVE ONE DIE THAT GOES UP TO SIX! AS YOU TAKE TURNS, YOU COLLECT MORE DICE.
!!
Take one die from the Dice Box & return to Start.
IN THIS GAME, IF YOU DO NOT ROLL EXACTLY SEVEN IN ONE TRY, YOU ARE SENT STRAIGHT BACK TO START!

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS, ANYWAY? WHOEVER ROLLS SEVEN FIRST JUST STRAIGHT UP WINS ?!
HEH HEH! TRUST ME, IT IS NOT SO SIMPLE AS THAT.

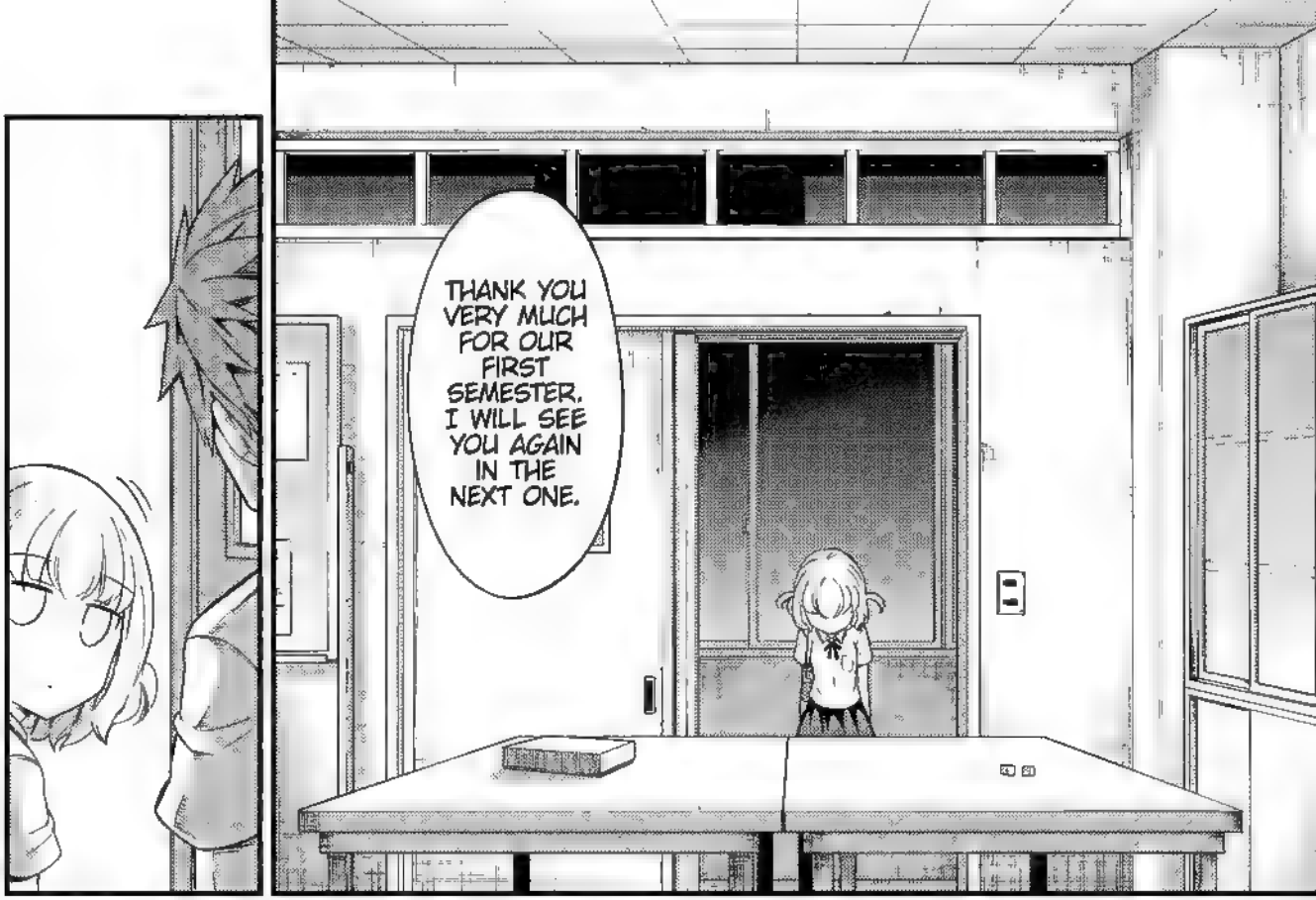
UH-HUH. SO THIS IS DESIGNED TO WASTE AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE BY WAITING ON RANDOM CHANCE. GOT IT.
WE CREATED THIS GAME WITH LONG-TERM STRATEGY AND NERVE-WRACKING TENSION IN MIND!
Gulp..

DICE
BUT NONE OF THOSE DICE ARE STRAIGHT-FORWARD! THEY ARE ALL UNIQUE OR DIFFERENT IN SOME WAY!
WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE?! ARE YOU PERSONAL FRIENDS WITH A DICE-MAKER OR SOME-THING?!

I THOUGHT WE WERE HERE TO CLEAN.
WAIT! PLEASE! WE NEED SOMEONE HERE TO WITNESS THIS GROUND-BREAKING EVENT!
OH. RIGHT. THEN STAY TO HELP US CLEAN AFTER-WARDS!!
I'M GOING HOME.
WHAT ?!
THIS HAD BETTER NOT GO PAST THE TIME WE HAVE TO LEAVE.
NO, NO! OF COURSE NOT!
THUMP
I LOVE
HERE. YOU CAN READ THROUGH THIS COLLECTION OF "I LOVE" ANTHOLOGIES WHILE YOU WAIT. THE BOX YOU FOUND HAS THE VERY FIRST ISSUE IN IT!
GO
Take Five Dice Go Back to Start
Take three dice from the Dice Box and go back to start
Return two of your dice to the Dice Box and go back to start
5
1
18
You won't even have time to finish one chapter in those anthologies
DON'T WORRY. I WILL FINISH THIS GAME IN NO TIME. IT WILL TAKE ONLY TWO TURNS! I PROMISE.
No, I'm gonna win first!

ドッペリン
PITCH BLACK
Whew! It's finally cooled down!
Boy, you sure got fun!
You too!
WAIT A MINUTE ...
RATTLE
3.5
IS THAT SEVEN? DOES THAT REALLY COME TO SEVENTY-SEVEN?
YEP. THAT'S SEVEN.
YUP, WITHOUT A DOUBT. IN OTHER WORDS ...
GOAL
Aaargh!!
I WIN !!!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL STILL DOING HERE? THEY'RE ABOUT TO LOCK THE GATES. GO HOME.
WHA ?!
I TOLD YOU!!
SHIRT
SEE?! TOLD YOU!
WAAAH!

WHAT'S IT MATTER AT THIS POINT? WE CAN JUST DO IT AFTER THE SECOND SEMESTER AND CALL IT GOOD.
Get going.
BUT... BUT WE HAVEN'T FINISHED OUR CLEANING!
WHA?! THAT'S ALL IT TOOK TO CONVINCE YOU?! WHY DIDN'T WE JUST DO THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA!
!
I WISH I'D BROUGHT THAT UP THREE HOURS AGO!
YEAH. GET OUTTA HERE.
SINCE THAT'S SETTLED, LET'S GO HOME!
HEY!
Yeah, yeah.
Move it, people!


THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR OUR FIRST SEMESTER. I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT ONE.

.....
Crap! Slip of the tongue
AS WE WILL HAVE MUCH CLEANING TO DO. TOGETHER.

THANK YOU FOR OUR FIRST SEMESTER. I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT ONE.

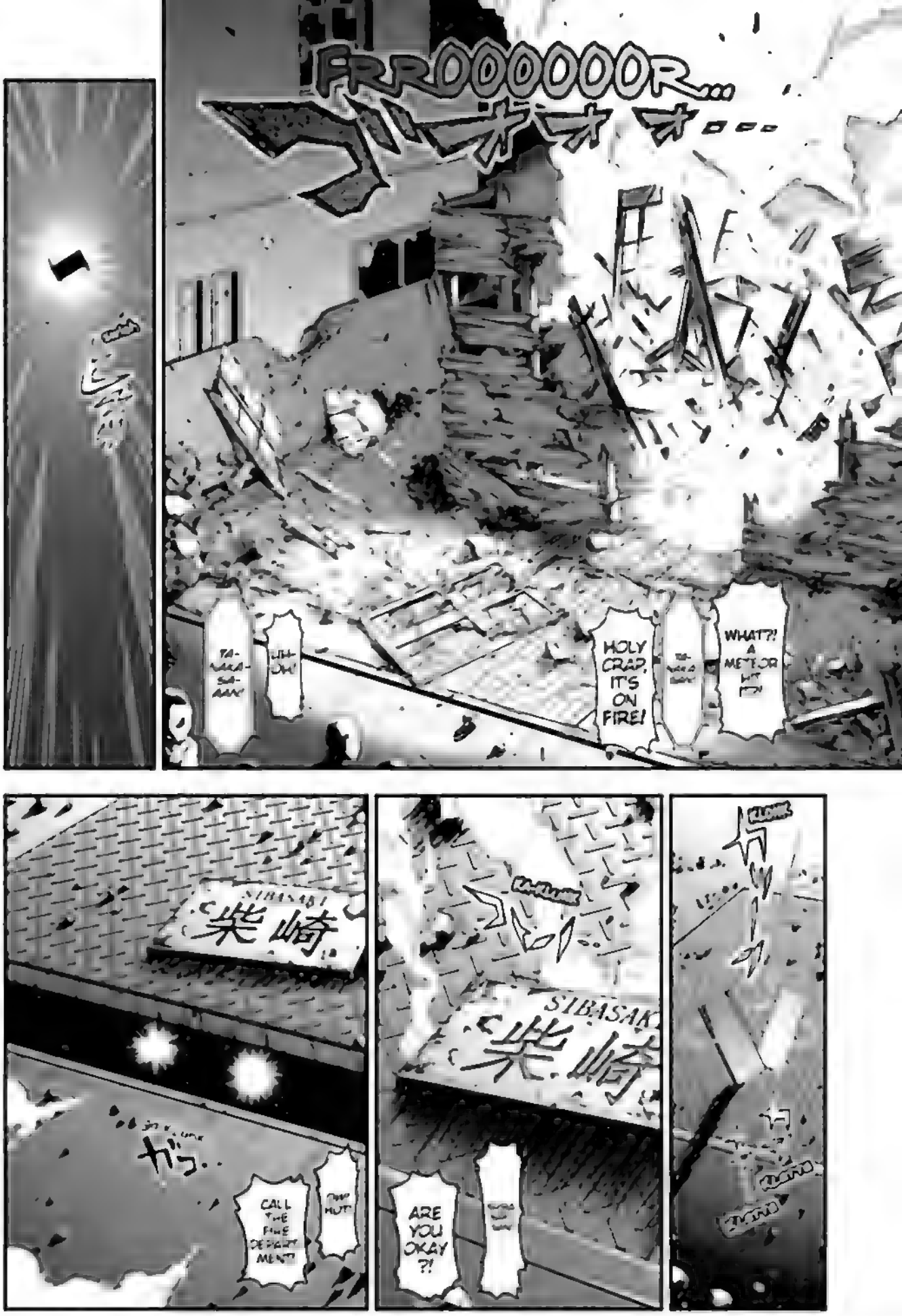
NOW THEN, EVERYONE, SUMMER VACATION HAS BEGUN! ♪ LET'S ALL WORK REALLY HARD DURING OUR SUMMER CLUB ACTIVITIES!
I MIGHT STOP BY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE... AFTER SECOND SEMESTER STARTS.
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME DURING SUMMER CLUB ACTIVITIES !!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?!
YEAH! ♪

OKAY, OKAY. I MIGHT STOP BY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

ゴゴゴゴ
FWSHoooooo

D-FRAGMENTS

Chapter 80
Just Don't Make a Racket, Okay?
BREAKING NEWS
WE INTERRUPT YOUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING TO BRING YOU A BREAKING NEWS REPORT. AT X O'CLOCK THIS EVENING, A METEOR ALLEGEDLY MADE IMPACT IN THE OOO SUBURB OF TOKYO.
.....
THERE IS NO WORD YET REGARDING ANY CASUALTIES IN THE AREA.
HRM. IT SEEMS WE ARE HAVING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND CANNOT REACH OUR REPORTER ON THE SCENE...
TANAKA-SAN?
SATO-SAN?
SATO-SAN! HELLO?
TANAKA-SAN?
SATO-SAN, WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
SATO-SAN?
SATO-SAN?
JUST IN CASE, IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA TO TOUCH BASE WITH EVERYONE AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE OKAY.
Y-YEAH.
AH! IT SEEMS OUR LOCAL NEWS TEAM HAS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.
A METEOR? SERIOUSLY?
THAT'S REALLY CLOSE TO HERE ...


FRROOOOOR...
ゴオオオ...
WHAT?! A METEOR HIT IT?!
HOLY CRAP, IT'S ON FIRE!
SIBASAKI
柴崎
CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
SIBASAKI
柴崎

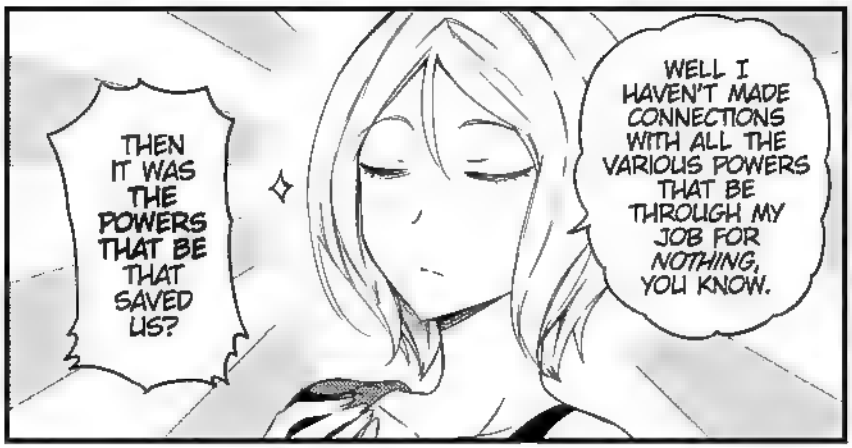
SPROING
DWAAAAH?!
ANE

SHIBA-SAKI-SAN!!

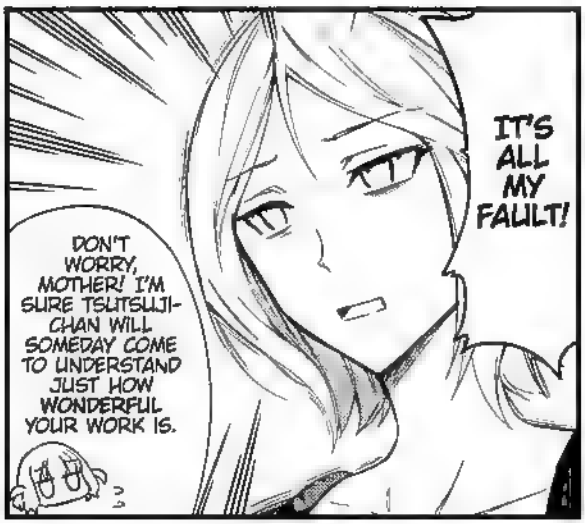
FRROOOAR

THANK YOU, MOTHER. YOUR QUICK-WITTED-NESS SAVED US!
LOOK HOW TSU-TSUJI HAS GROWN!
AND LOOK HOW ROKA HAS... NOT GROWN.

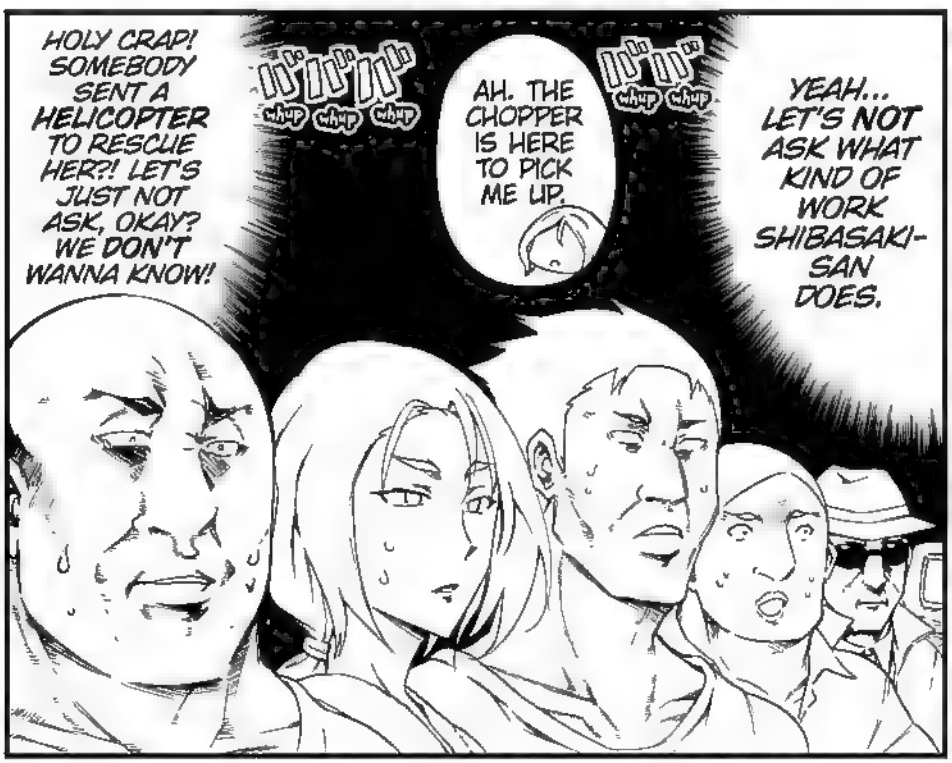
WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE! FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT WE WOULD SURELY PERISH!
THEY'RE OKAY?
WHAT? REALLY?
OH, GOOD. THEY'RE ALL RIGHT.
ANE


WELL I HAVEN'T MADE CONNECTIONS WITH ALL THE VARIOUS POWERS THAT BE THROUGH MY JOB FOR NOTHING, YOU KNOW.
THEN IT WAS THE POWERS THAT BE THAT SAVED US?

I DON'T KNOW WHICH POWER THAT BE STEPPED IN, BUT I'M GLAD THEY DID!
WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY COULD BE SO PRECISE!
Really?!
ACCORDING TO OUR SATELLITE INFORMATION, A METEOR MAY FALL IN THE NEAR VICINITY OF YOUR HOUSE VERY SOON. TAKE SHELTER.
IF I HADN'T GOTTEN AN UPDATE FROM ONE OF THEM WHEN I DID...


IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
DON'T WORRY, MOTHER! I'M SURE TSUTSUJI-CHAN WILL SOMEDAY COME TO UNDERSTAND JUST HOW WONDERFUL YOUR WORK IS.

So dark —
Dark
ズバババ
slurr slurr
I'LL ADMIT I STARTED TO WORRY WHEN TSUTSUJI-CHAN REFUSED TO GO INTO MY (SECRET UNDER-GROUND) WORKSHOP.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HER CHILDHOOD TRAUMA RAN SO DEEPLY...
ズバババ
slurr slurr

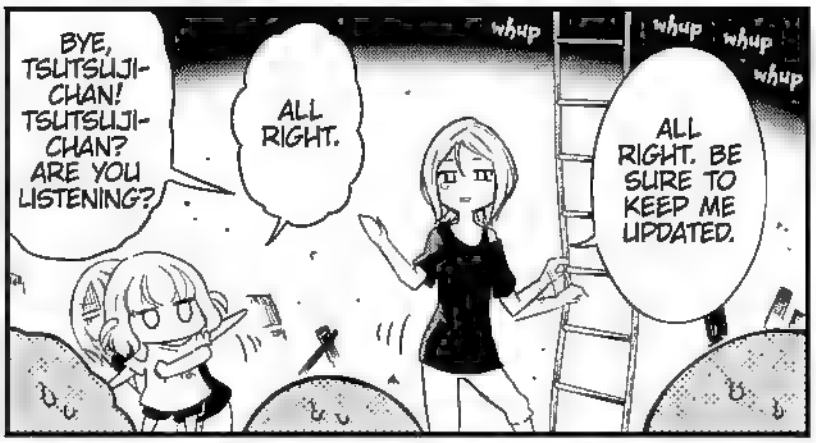

HOLY CRAP! SOMEBODY SENT A HELICOPTER TO RESCUE HER?! LET'S JUST NOT ASK, OKAY? WE DON'T WANNA KNOW!
バババ
whup whup whup
AH. THE CHOPPER IS HERE TO PICK ME UP.
バババ
whup whup
YEAH... LET'S NOT ASK WHAT KIND OF WORK SHIBASAKI-SAN DOES.

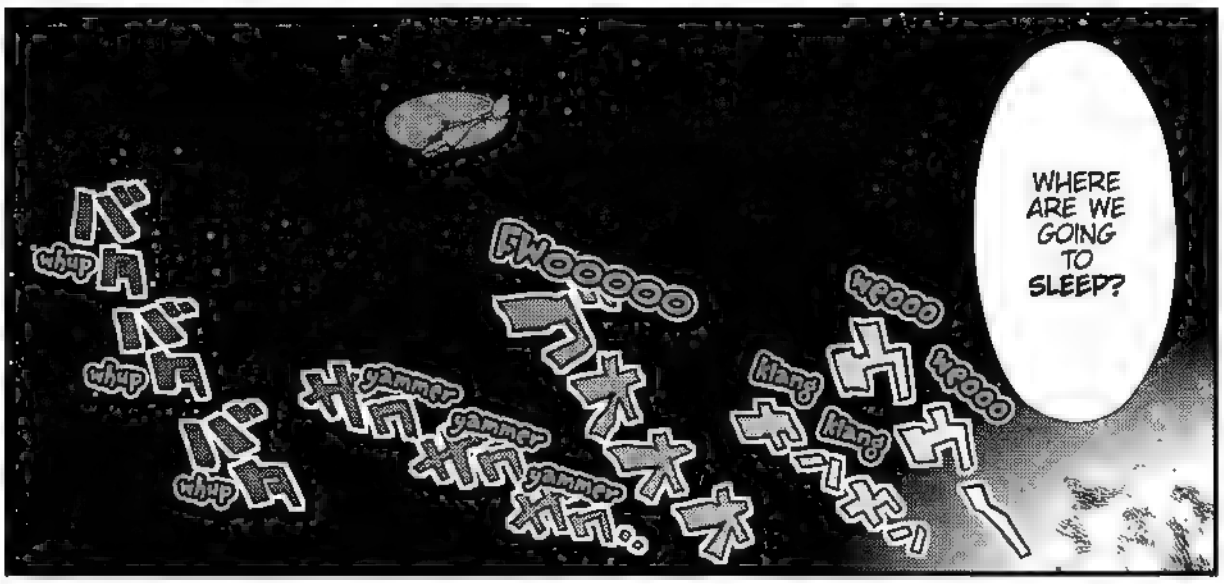
FWOOOOOO
ゴゴゴゴ。。

I WANNA STAY WITH ONEE-CHAN!!
GLOMP
I'D LIKE TO STAY HERE AND ATTEND SUMMER CLUB ACTIVITIES, SO I'M AFRAID I CAN'T COME ALONG.
WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OUR-SELVES.

whup
ALL RIGHT. I NEED TO TALK TO SOME PEOPLE ABOUT HAVING OUR HOUSE REBUILT.
whiff whiff

NOW THEN ...
TSUT-SUJI-CHAN, LOOK AT ME, OKAY?!


BYE, TSUTSUJI-CHAN! TSUTSUJI-CHAN? ARE YOU LISTENING?
ALL RIGHT.
whup
ALL RIGHT. BE SURE TO KEEP ME UPDATED.

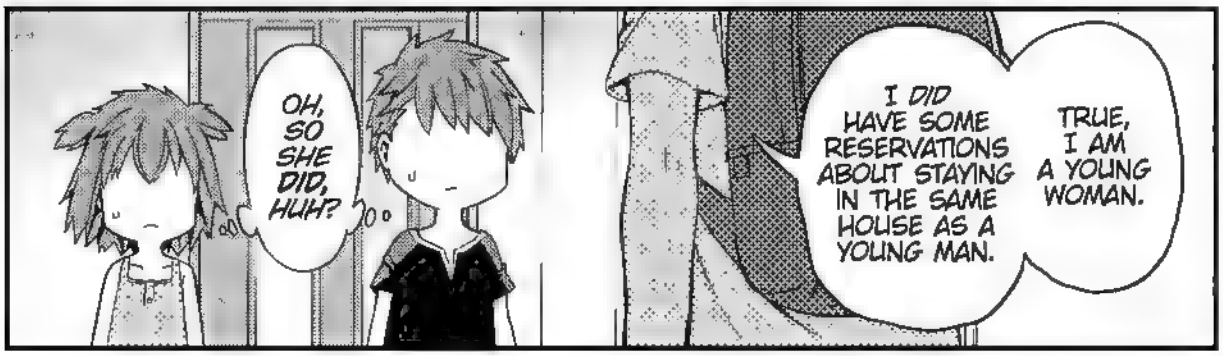

WHERE ARE WE GOING TO SLEEP?
whup
yammer
FWOOOOO
wpooo
klang
whup

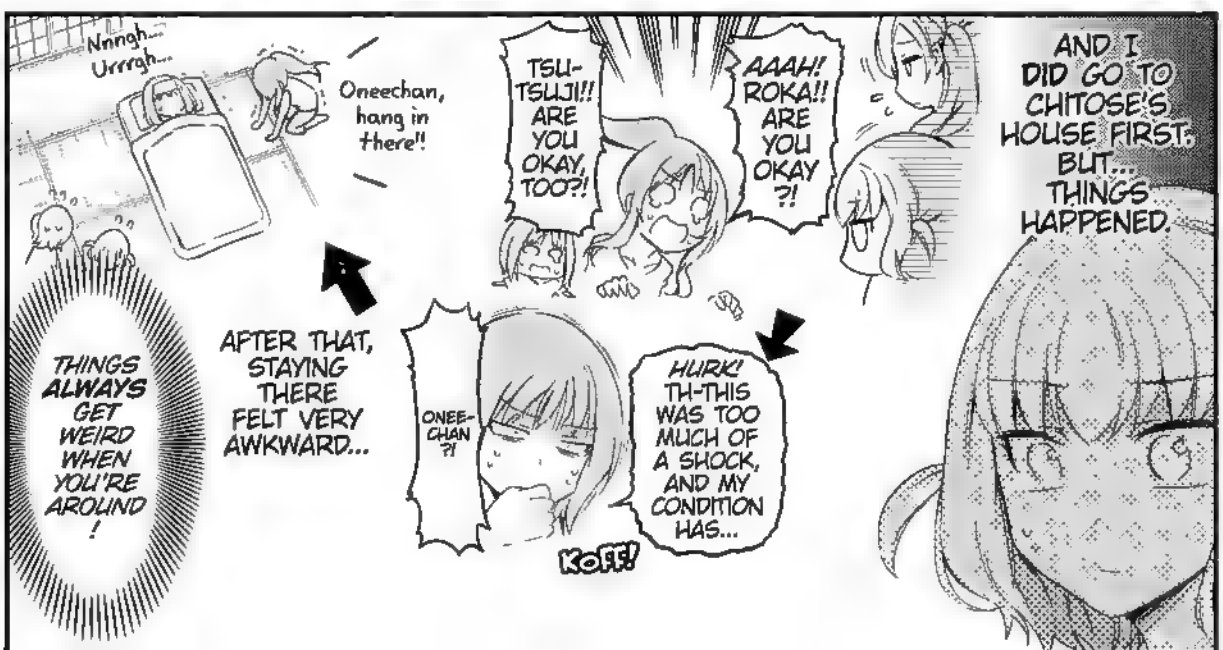
NO! YOU ARE NOT INFECTING MY SUMMER VACATION WITH YOUR CRAZI-NESS!
AND SO, WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HOSTING US IN OUR TIME OF NEED!
tomorrow
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! A METEOR?! NO WAY, THAT'S TOO FAR OUT THERE!
I MEAN, A METEOR HIT YOUR HOUSE?! FOR REAL?!
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO CONCERNED ABOUT US.
UH, SURE.
OH, WELL.. THAT'S GOOD, AT LEAST.
I'M JUST FINE, SEE? PERFECTLY FINE.
ARE YOU OKAY?!
KAZAMA-SAN, PLEASE CALM DOWN!

WAIT, HOLD ON! WHY DID YOU COME TO MY HOUSE?!
BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO STAY...
Tch!
WHAT? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES?
OF COURSE WE DO.
THEY'RE JUST IN IBARAKI PREFECTURE OR FINLAND.
IBARAKI
FINLAND
GUESS YOU'RE GOING TO IBARAKI, THEN.
IBARAKI IS MUCH TOO FAR AWAY FOR ME TO COMMUTE TO SCHOOL ON TIME.
WELL, THAT'S JUST YOUR BAD LUCK, ISN'T IT?
KAZAMA-SAN, YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO GET OUT OF SUMMER CLUB ACTIVITIES !!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF ASKING, Y'KNOW, YOUR NEIGHBORS IF YOU CAN STAY WITH THEM?
WHOA, WHOA. HOLD ON. GIVE ME A MINUTE TO LET THIS ALL SINK IN, OKAY?

OR MAYBE YOUR OTHER FRIENDS... FRIENDS WHO HAPPEN TO BE GIRLS, YOU KNOW?

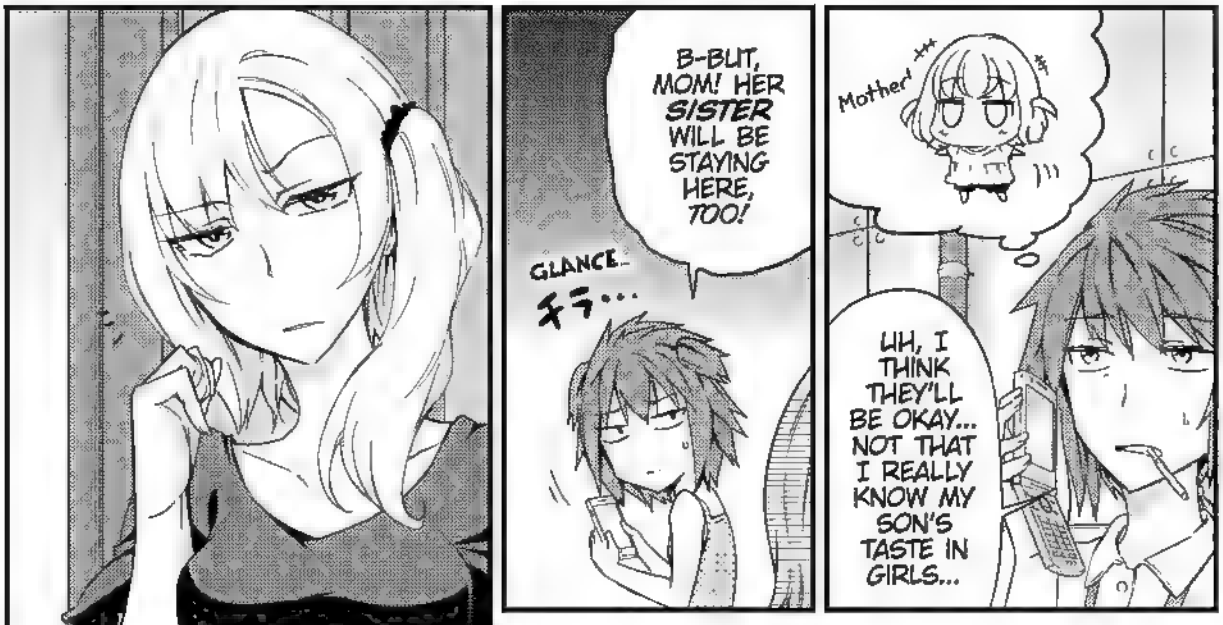

OH, SO SHE DID, HUH?
I DID HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT STAYING IN THE SAME HOUSE AS A YOUNG MAN.
TRUE, I AM A YOUNG WOMAN.


Nnngh... Urrrgh...
Oneechan, hang in there!!
TSU-TSUJI!! ARE YOU OKAY, TOO?!
AAAH!! ROKA!! ARE YOU OKAY ?!
AND I DID GO TO CHITOSE'S HOUSE FIRST. BUT... THINGS HAPPENED.
THINGS ALWAYS GET WEIRD WHEN YOU'RE AROUND !
AFTER THAT, STAYING THERE FELT VERY AWKWARD...
ONEE-CHAN ?!
HURK! TH-THIS WAS TOO MUCH OF A SHOCK, AND MY CONDITION HAS...
KOFF!

TAKAO-SAN'S FAMILY IS ALREADY SO LARGE THAT BOTHERING THEM SEEMED A LITTLE MUCH...
IT'S A PRETTY BIG BOTHER TO US, TOO, Y'KNOW!!
WE WEREN'T ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SAKURA.
DID SHE SEE THE WRITING ON THE WALL AND DECIDE TO GET OUT OF TOWN, MAYBE?
Lives alone in a 1-bedroom apt.
AFTER THAT, WE WENT AND STAYED WITH TAMA-SENPAI FOR A TIME, BUT WITH THREE OF US THERE IT WAS A LITTLE CRAMPED...
WHAT, TAMA-SENPAI LIVES BY HER-SELF?
WHAT THE HECK?! YOU LOOKED UP THE BLUEPRINTS TO OUR HOUSE?!
YOU ARE NOT USING THE SITTING ROOM THAT IS TO THE SIDE OF YOUR LIVING ROOM.
ACTUALLY, ON THAT FRONT I DID SOME RESEARCH AND IT APPEARS YOU HAVE MORE AVAILABLE SPACE THAN THEY DO.
W-WELL ...
MOM, WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING*?! LETTING THEM CRASH WITH US LIKE THIS...
WHEN DID YOU GET MY MOM'S PHONE NUMBER ?!
SURE.
I MADE CERTAIN TO GET PERMISSION FROM YOUR MOTHER AHEAD OF TIME, TOO!!

THEY DID LOSE THEIR HOUSE TO A METEOR STRIKE.
IT'S KINDA HARD TO SAY NO AFTER HEARING THAT ...
.....
FAIR POINT.

NO, MOM! HOLD ON! THINK ABOUT THIS!! YOU'RE LETTING A GIRL AND A GUY STAY TOGETHER UNDER THE SAME ROOF!! DOESN'T THAT BRING UP, Y'KNOW... POTENTIAL PROBLEMS?!
YOINK


UH, I THINK THEY'LL BE OKAY... NOT THAT I REALLY KNOW MY SON'S TASTE IN GIRLS...
Mother!
B-BUT, MOM! HER SISTER WILL BE STAYING HERE, TOO!
GLANCE-
チラ...

.....
Onee-chan, wait for me!
Kaza-mama Mental Picture of Roka's Sister
THEY SHOULD BE FINE.
?!

MOM, YOU HAVE WAY TOO MUCH FAITH IN YOUR SON!!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY ISN'T SHE STAYING WITH HER OWN FRIENDS?
WHOOSH
I COULD NEVER EVEN THINK ABOUT LIVING WITHOUT MY PRECIOUS ONEE-CHAN!!

KAZAMA-SAN, JUST GIVE IN TO THE INEVITABLE.
DUN DUN DUUN.
.....
SHE HUNG UP?!
beeee beeee
KLIK

JUST DON'T MAKE A RACKET, OKAY?
Sigh...

UGH. GREAT. SO NOW WE'RE STUCK DEALING WITH THESE FREAKAZOIDS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
I should've held out longer...

YAAAY! TSUTSUJI-CHAN, WE'VE DONE IT! NOW WE FINALLY HAVE A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS!!
I'M KICKING YOUR SISTER OUT IF SHE GETS TOO ANNOYING, GOT IT?
YAAAY!! I STILL HATE THE IDEA OF HAVING TO ASK KAZAMA FOR HELP, BUT FOR YOUR SAKE I'LL PUT UP WITH ANYTHING, ONEECHAN!!

WHAT IS IT?
THUMP
THAT'S RIGHT. I ALMOST FORGOT. AS YOU ARE BEING GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO LET US STAY WITH YOU...

OH!

LOOK !!
NO, REALLY! IT'S AMAZING! INCRED-IBLE, EVEN!
mumble
mumble

You'd better contribute your share towards food...
UH, IF IT'S NOT CASH, WE DON'T WANT IT.
HUH ?!
Aniki...

HEH HEH HEH. THIS IS A MIRACLE!
HUH?

A FRAGMENT OF THE METEOR THAT FELL ON OUR HOUSE!
HOLY CRAP! SHE ACTUALLY PULLED OUT SOMETHING THAT'S LEGIT AMAZING!
ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU WANNA GIVE THIS TO US? WAIT... IS IT EVEN SAFE TO HAVE AROUND?!
YES!
WITH THE OFFICIAL ANALYSIS COMPLETED, RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP REVERTS TO THE LANDHOLDER OF WHERE IT WAS FOUND.
SERIOUSLY?!
WE WOULD RATHER NOT KEEP IT OURSELVES, AS IT ONLY SERVES AS A REMINDER OF THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR HOME.
HM. MAYBE I CAN USE IT TO SCARE THESE TWO AWAY LATER...
HATE THAT THING. UGH.
STILL... IT LOOKS JUST LIKE ANY OLD ROCK TO ME.
NO, IT IS MOST DEFINITELY A METEOR FRAGMENT. YOU SEE, IF YOU PUT YOUR HANDS ON THE CONTAINER HERE...
IT MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END.
UH, DID YOU REALLY GET ACTUAL SCIENTISTS TO ANALYZE THIS THING?

AWWWSM
COME, KAZAMA-SAN. YOU TOUCH IT, TOO.
IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY... LASTING EFFECTS, DOES IT?
THIS IS JUST A RANDOM ROCK, ISN'T IT?

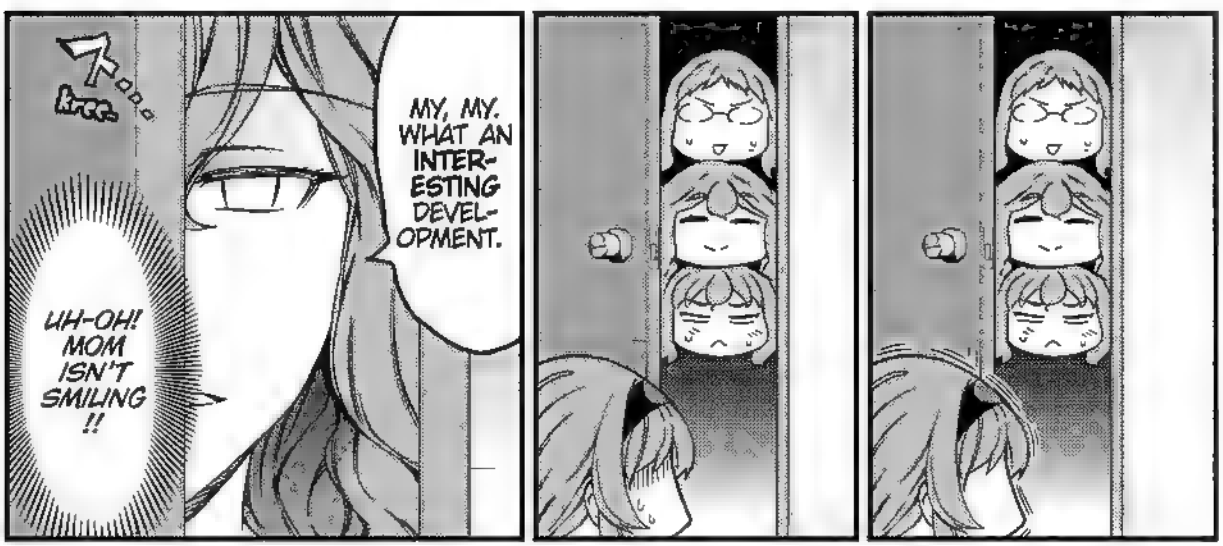
FREEZE...
FWIIIIIISH...

D-FRAGMENTS

Though a meteor destroyed our home, we are all okay. We will be staying with Kazama-san for the foreseeable future.
Roka
CHRRRR
CHRRRR
CHRRRR
Chapter 81
You Can Say...

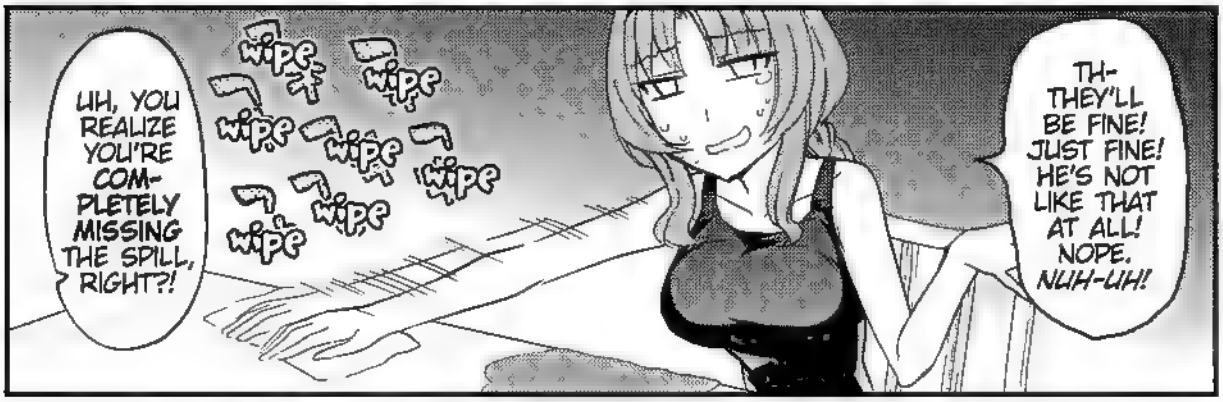
WHAAAAAAAAAAAA?!
WHYYYYYYYYYY?!
WHY DID THEY HAVE TO GO TO KAZA-MA'S HOUSE?!
WHAT ABOUT THE STUDENT COUNCIL PREZ'S PLACE?!
THIS JUST ISN'T RIGHT!!

AN UNRELATED TEENAGE GIRL AND TEENAGE GUY LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF...
I-I NEED TO GO THERE, TOO ...
NO, I MEAN I NEED TO GO AND TELL THEM THAT'S A BAD IDEA!


MY, MY. WHAT AN INTER-ESTING DEVEL-OPMENT.
kkkk
UH-OH! MOM ISN'T SMILING!!

blub blub
blub blub
AH, SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PEN-ED?
.....
Family Meeting
※No Dad Allowed
GUUULP.
WHY THE HECK WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
OH, THEY LIVED IN THAT HOUSE...? A FRIEND AND I WENT TO THE SITE TWO DAYS AGO TO SEE IF WE COULD FIND ANY METEOR FRAGMENTS.
SER-IOUS-LY?! YOU'RE KIDDING ME.
A METEOR FELL ON YOUR FRIEND'S HOUSE, AND NOW THEY DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?
POOR GIRL NEEDS TO LEARN TO LIE BETTER...
WH-WH-WHAT?! NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! REALLY!
I SEE!
ONLY A CHILD WOULD THINK IT'S "COOL"! GROW UP!
AND SO THAT FRIEND OF YOURS WHO LOST HER HOME IS NOW STAYING WITH THE BOY YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON.
HUH? BECAUSE IT'D BE COOL TO HAVE A METEOR FRAGMENT. WHY ELSE?

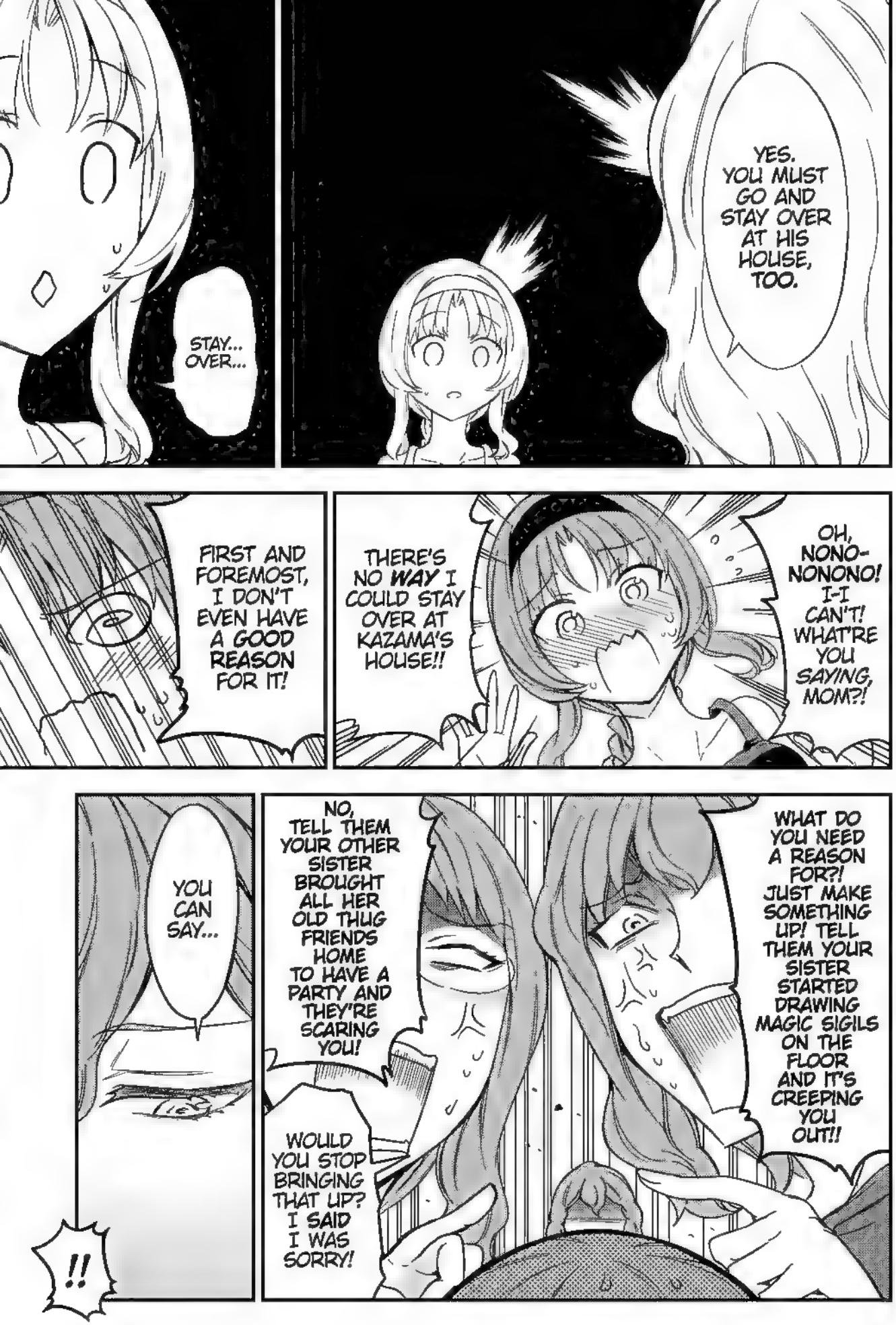
GUYS AT THAT AGE ARE SO HORMONAL THEY'RE PRACTICALLY WERE-WOLVES!
THAT'S A WEIRD COMPAR-ISON, BUT OKAY!
THIS IS BAD. WE'RE DEALING WITH A HEALTHY TEENAGE BOY...


UH, YOU REALIZE YOU'RE COM-PLETELY MISSING THE SPILL, RIGHT?!
wipe
TH-THEY'LL BE FINE! JUST FINE! HE'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL! NOPE. NUH-UH!

YOU CAN'T MEAN WHAT I THINK YOU MEAN!
BWAH? MOM!!
eldest
sister

ME?
HUH?
"FIGHT"?

IT SEEMS MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER HAS NO CHOICE, BUT TAKE TO THE FIELD AND FIGHT.
Hmm...


YES. YOU MUST GO AND STAY OVER AT HIS HOUSE, TOO.
STAY... OVER...
OH, NONO-NONONO! I-I CAN'T! WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, MOM?!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD STAY OVER AT KAZAMA'S HOUSE!!
FIRST AND FOREMOST, I DON'T EVEN HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR IT!
WHAT DO YOU NEED A REASON FOR?! JUST MAKE SOMETHING UP! TELL THEM YOUR SISTER STARTED DRAWING MAGIC SIGILS ON THE FLOOR AND IT'S CREEPING YOU OUT!!
NO, TELL THEM YOUR OTHER SISTER BROUGHT ALL HER OLD THUG FRIENDS HOME TO HAVE A PARTY AND THEY'RE SCARING YOU!
WOULD YOU STOP BRINGING THAT UP? I SAID I WAS SORRY!
YOU CAN SAY...
!!

THAT'S IT!!
THAT YOUR FATHER STEPPED ON YOUR FAVORITE RARE GAME CONSOLE AND BROKE IT, SO YOU GOT IN AN ARGUMENT WITH HIM AND RAN AWAY.

IF HE DID DO THAT, I WOULD RUN AWAY...
Definitely.
WELL, UM... YEAH...

Now get the hell outta here!
WELL, THERE YOU GO! THERE'S YOUR REASON. ♪
SISTER

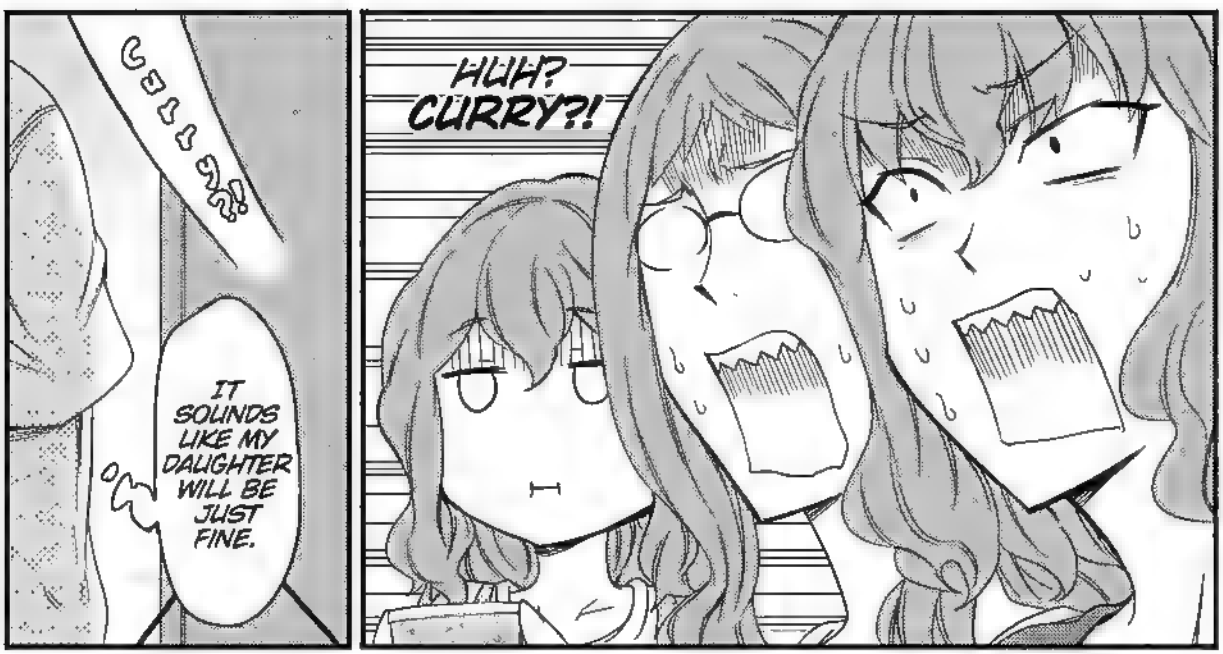
SO, WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING AT HIS HOUSE WHILE YOU'RE THERE? YOU'VE GOT THE WHOOOLE NIGHT, Y'KNOW. YOU MUST HAVE BIG PLANS, RIGHT?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME. MY OWN BABY SISTER, STAYING OVER AT A GUY'S HOUSE. NOT BAD, NOT BAD!

MAYBE WE COULD, UM... YOU KNOW ...
STAY UP ALL NIGHT PLAYING GAMES.
That would be so cool...
LITTLE SIS, SURELY YOU CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER THAN THAT! LIKE... YOU KNOW!!
TA-DAAAA!
ポコーン!
MOM, YOU REALIZE WHAT THAT IMPLIES ... RIGHT ?!
I FORGOT THAT I MADE TOO MUCH SEKIHAN RED-BEAN RICE*. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SOME AS A GIFT FOR YOUR HOST?
MOM ?!
OH YES. THAT'S RIGHT!
EVEN IF OUR DUNCE OF A SISTER DOESN'T GET THE MESSAGE, THE GUY SHE'S STAYING WITH WILL...
THAT'S OUR MOM FOR YOU! WHEN SHE SETS HER MIND TO SOMETHING, SHE'S ABOUT AS SUBTLE AS A JACK-HAMMER!
Please take good care of my daughter.
HOW ABOUT A NICE MESSAGE TO GO WITH IT.

*In Japan, Sekihan red bean rice is commonly associated with celebrations, including weddings or when a young woman comes of age.

AND TO BE HONEST, I WANT TO TAKE SOMETHING I MADE...
MOM... I'M SORRY.
Red-bean rice is supposed to be for celebrations...
BUT... IS RED-BEAN RICE REALLY APPROPRIATE AS A HOST GIFT? I MEAN, ROKA IS GOING THROUGH A REALLY ROUGH TIME RIGHT NOW.
HEH HEH HEH ...
MW-AH HA HA!

I THINK I WANT TO MAKE SOME CURRY TO TAKE INSTEAD.


HUH? CURRY?!
CURRY?!
IT SOUNDS LIKE MY DAUGHTER WILL BE JUST FINE.

Curry!

D-FRAGMENTS

Chapter 82
Why Do You Look Happy?!

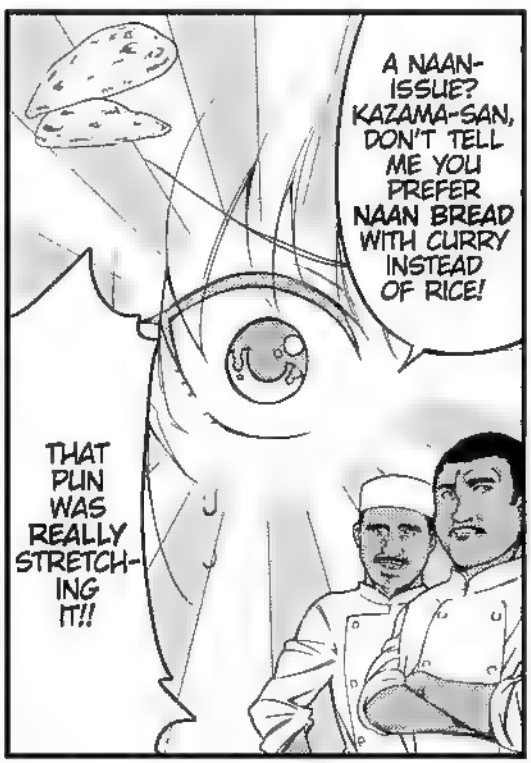
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

KAZAMA-SAN, GUESS WHAT? YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT! WE GET TO HAVE CURRY FOR BREAKFAST TODAY! ♪
HUZZZAH!
TAKAO-SAN BROUGHT IT FOR US!
WHAT THE --?! WHY ?!

DECISIONS, DECISIONS. TO MAKE WHITE RICE TO GO WITH THE CURRY? OR TO HAVE CURRY OVER THE RED-BEAN RICE?
GWOOOOOO
THAT'S A NON-ISSUE RIGHT NOW!

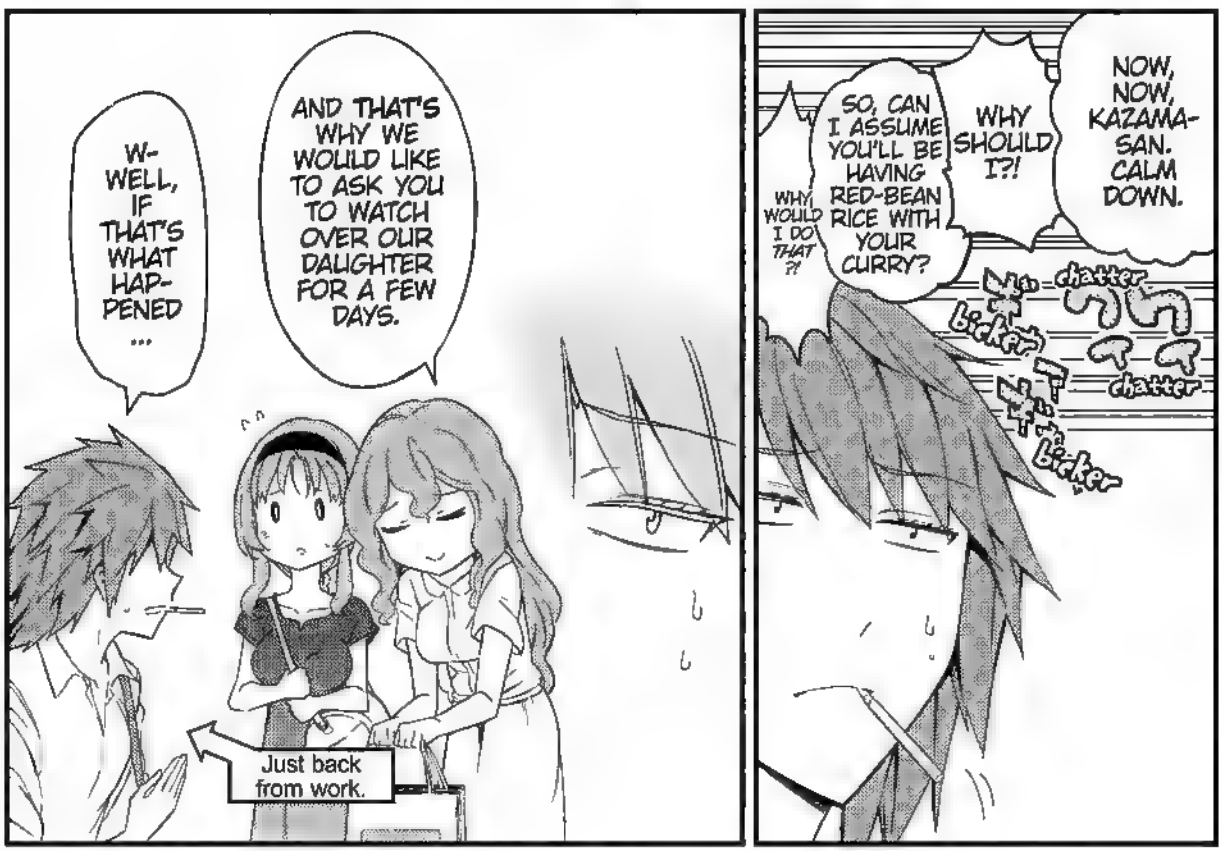
THOUGH FOR SOME REASON THE ONLY RICE SHE BROUGHT WAS SEKIHAN RED BEAN RICE TO GO WITH IT. WHICH IS SOMEWHAT OF AN ODD CHOICE...
SERI-OUSLY, WHY ?!

KENJI, DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO LOUD? IT'S EARLY.
MOM! YOU'RE BACK OFF THE NIGHT-SHIFT ALREADY?

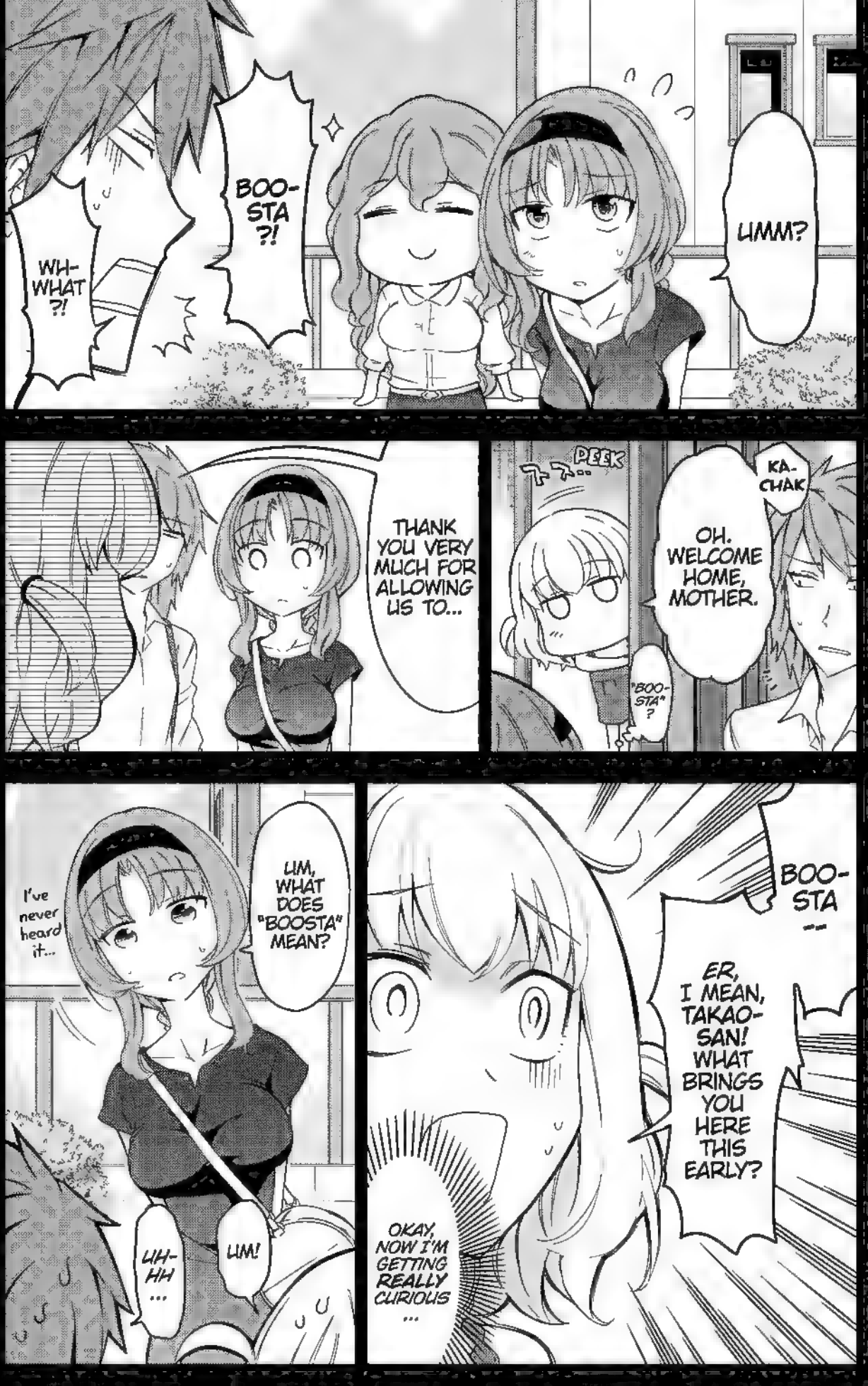

A NAAN-ISSUE? KAZAMA-SAN, DON'T TELL ME YOU PREFER NAAN BREAD WITH CURRY INSTEAD OF RICE!
THAT PUN WAS REALLY STRETCH-ING IT!!

AND DAMN RIGHT I'M GONNA BE LOUD! WHY ARE THERE EVEN MORE OF THEM NOW?!
point
point
point
Aniki, did you just point at me?
UH ...

WELL... BECAUSE WE'LL BE TAKING CARE OF TAKAO-SAN FOR A FEW DAYS, THAT'S WHY.
THAT'S NOT AN EXPLAN-ATION! WHY?! WHY IS ANY OF THIS HAPPEN-ING?!

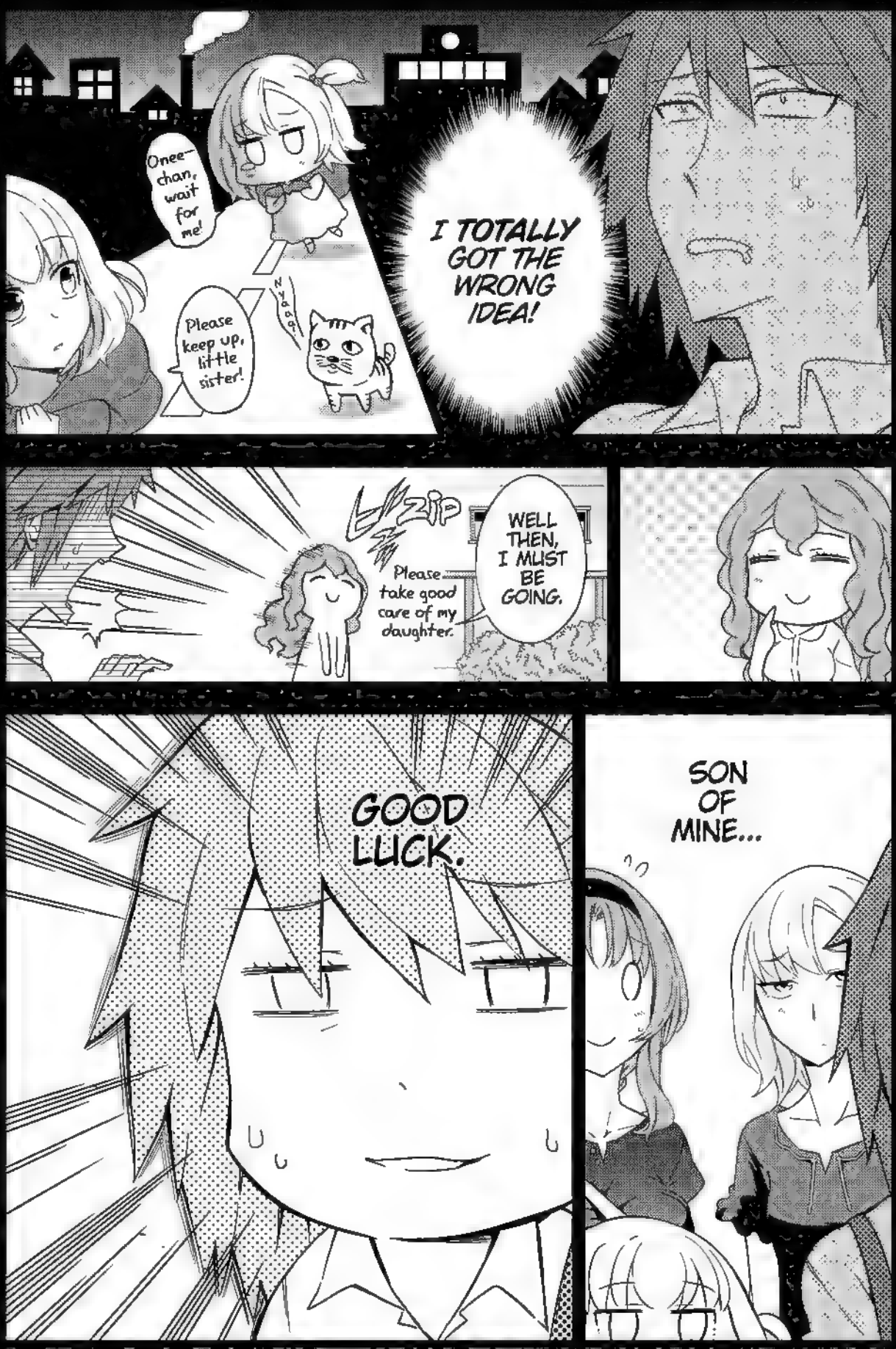

NOW, NOW, KAZAMA-SAN. CALM DOWN.
WHY SHOULD I?!
SO, CAN I ASSUME YOU'LL BE HAVING RED-BEAN RICE WITH YOUR CURRY?
WHY, WOULD I DO THAT?!
chatter
bicker
chatter
bicker
AND THAT'S WHY WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO WATCH OVER OUR DAUGHTER FOR A FEW DAYS.
W-WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED ...
Just back from work.

WE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HER FOR YOU, YEAH. THAT PART ISN'T A PROBLEM. BUT, UH...
YOU KNOW I HAVE A TEENAGE SON, RIGHT?
That's fine!
OH, I'M PER-FECTLY OKAY WITH THAT! ♪
ER, EVEN IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT--WAIT. YOU, HER MOTHER, HOW ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS ?!
SHE LOOKS WAY TOO YOUNG TO HAVE A TEEN-AGE KID!
UM...
I-I'M OKAY WITH IT...
Really...
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! YOUR BAG STRAP MAKES YOUR BIG BOOBS EVEN BIGGER!
YOUR...YOUR BOOB-STRAP IS A DANGER TO MY SON! THAT BOOB-STRAP IS... IS...


UMM?
BOO-STA ?!
WH-WHAT ?!
KA-CHAK
PEEK
OH. WELCOME HOME, MOTHER.
"BOO-STA" ?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALLOWING US TO...
BOO-STA --
ER, I MEAN, TAKAO-SAN! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE THIS EARLY?
OKAY, NOW I'M GETTING REALLY CURIOUS ...
UM, WHAT DOES "BOOSTA" MEAN?
I've never heard it...
UM!
UH-HH ...

O-OH, OKAY... "BOO-STA"!
AAAA-AUGH!!
flail
flail
flail
WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT INVENT FAMILY TRADITIONS FOR US OUT OF THIN AIR!
"BOOSTA" IS A KAZAMA FAMILY TRADITIONAL GREETING THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH MANY GENERATIONS!
AH HA! I SPY ONEE-CHAN!
おおおお

HUH?
.....
Th-That strap...! Augh!!
OH, COME NOW, MOTHER. I TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE!
I SAID BOTH MYSELF AND MY YOUNGER SISTER TSUTSUJI-CHAN WOULD BE STAYING WITH YOU. REMEMBER?
YOUNGER...?
HUH?
AND YOU ARE...?
UM... HI.
THANK YOU FOR LETTING US STAY WITH YOU.


I TOTALLY GOT THE WRONG IDEA!
Onee-chan, wait for me!
Please keep up, little sister!
Nyaa
WELL THEN, I MUST BE GOING.
Please take good care of my daughter.
zip
GOOD LUCK.
SON OF MINE...

I MEAN IT. GOOD LUCK, SON.
?
?
WELL THEN, WITH TAKAO-SAN JOINING US AS OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE KAZAMA FAMILY, I THINK THIS CALLS FOR A PARTY... A CURRY PARTY!!
HOLD IT!
LOOK, I CAN UNDERSTAND TAKING SOMEONE IN BECAUSE A METEOR WIPED OUT THEIR HOUSE. BUT WHY TAKAO?!
THERE ARE REASONS WHY TAKAO-SAN CAN'T STAY AT HER HOUSE FOR A WHILE.
SO SHE'LL BE STAYING HERE INSTEAD.
HUH?!
SHE'S STAYING HERE, AND THAT'S THAT! I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!!
WHAT?! OH, SO THIS IS AN EXECUTIVE DECISION, HUH?! YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK HAPPY ABOUT IT!
UM, I-I PROMISE I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. REALLY! SO FOR NOW, WHY DON'T WE SIT AND EAT BREAK-FAST?
TRYING TO DISTRACT EVER-YONE WITH FOOD NOW, EH?!
AND GOOD GOD, YOU REALLY DID PUT CURRY OVER THE RED-BEAN RICE?!
KAZAMA-SAN, THE RED-BEAN RICE AND THE CURRY PAIR QUITE WELL, SURPRIS-INGLY ENOUGH.
AND YOU COULDN'T WAIT LONG ENOUGH FOR THE WHITE RICE TO FINISH COOKING ?!

TAKAO, YOU HAVE A FRIEND NAMED FUKUNISHI, RIGHT?!
THAT'S RIGHT! FUKU-NISHI!!
GOD... I HAVE TO CALM DOWN. DEEP BREATHS ...
REMEMBER TO TAKE THINGS AT MY OWN PACE...
THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY OUTTA THIS...
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
AUGH! I'M SO STUPID!!
THEN GO STAY AT HER HOUSE !!
FUKU-NISHI-SAN ...?
YEAH! HER! DID YOU ASK IF YOU COULD STAY WITH HER?!
UM, NO...
PLEASE, FUKUNISHI-SAN! YOU HAVE TO SAY NO!
YEAH, IT'LL HURT A LITTLE TO HAVE YOU REFUSE ME... BUT PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO!
GO ON! TEXT HER AND ASK! RIGHT NOW!
URK!

BE-BEEP
What, really? I have two teenaged brothers. No can do.
THERE! SEE?!
NO GO! ♪
No can do.
WAIT, WHY DO YOU SOUND HAPPY?!
AND YOU'RE ALREADY STAYING WITH A TEENAGED GUY HERE!! ME!!
TEEN-AGED ...
GUY ...?
FLINCH

WHATEVER. DO WHAT YOU WANT, I DON'T CARE. I'M GOING BACK TO SLEEP.
tmp
tmp
BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT RED-BEAN CURRY RICE FOR BREAK-FAST?
DON'T WANT ANY. I'M GOING TO BED.

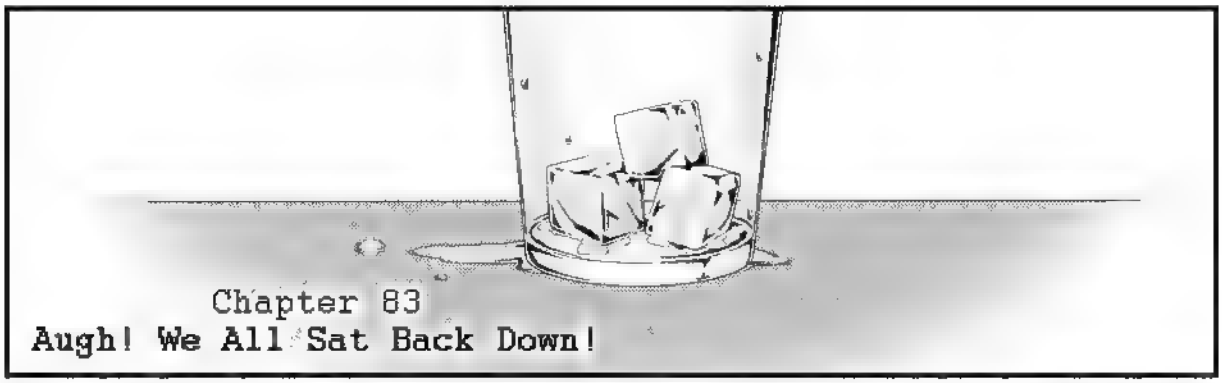
KAZA-MA...
THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE MADE HER DECISION. I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.

?!

UM... BOOSTA!

?!
?!
Um...
B-
boosta?
shake
shake

D-FRAGMENTS



Chapter 83
Augh! We All Sat Back Down!

WELL, THIS IS AWKWARD ...

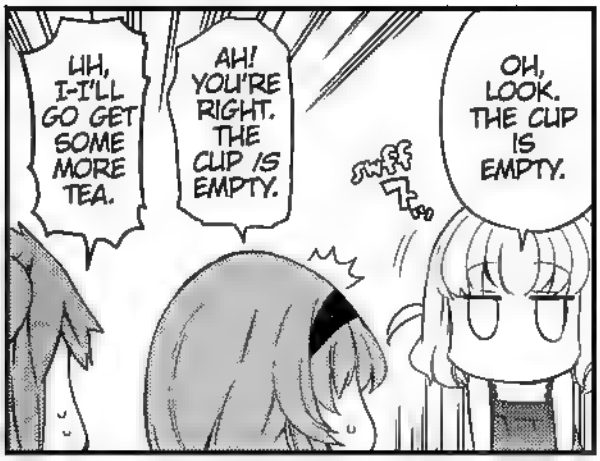
URRRG! WHY ISN'T ANYONE SAYING ANYTHING? AND WHY DID KAZAMA HAVE TO GO BACK TO BED?

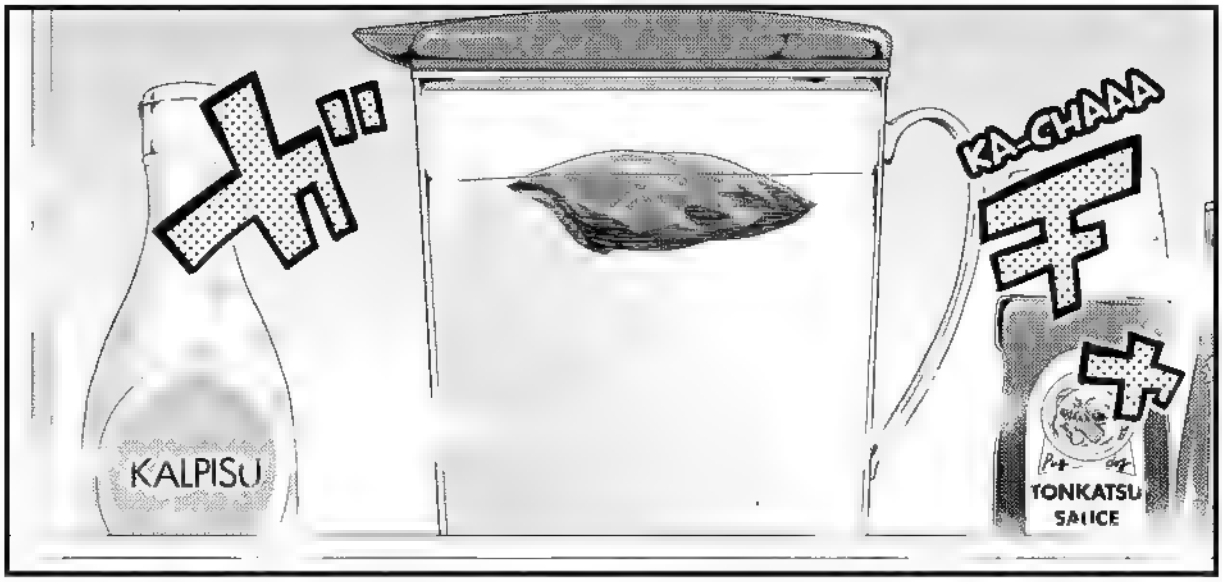
AAAUGH!! HOW DID THINGS WIND UP LIKE THIS?! NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?! STUPID MOM AND STUPID ANIKI, GOING UPSTAIRS TO SLEEP AND LEAVING ME TO PLAY HOSTESS...

ONEECHAN, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, I'LL GO ALONG WITH IT 100 PERCENT!

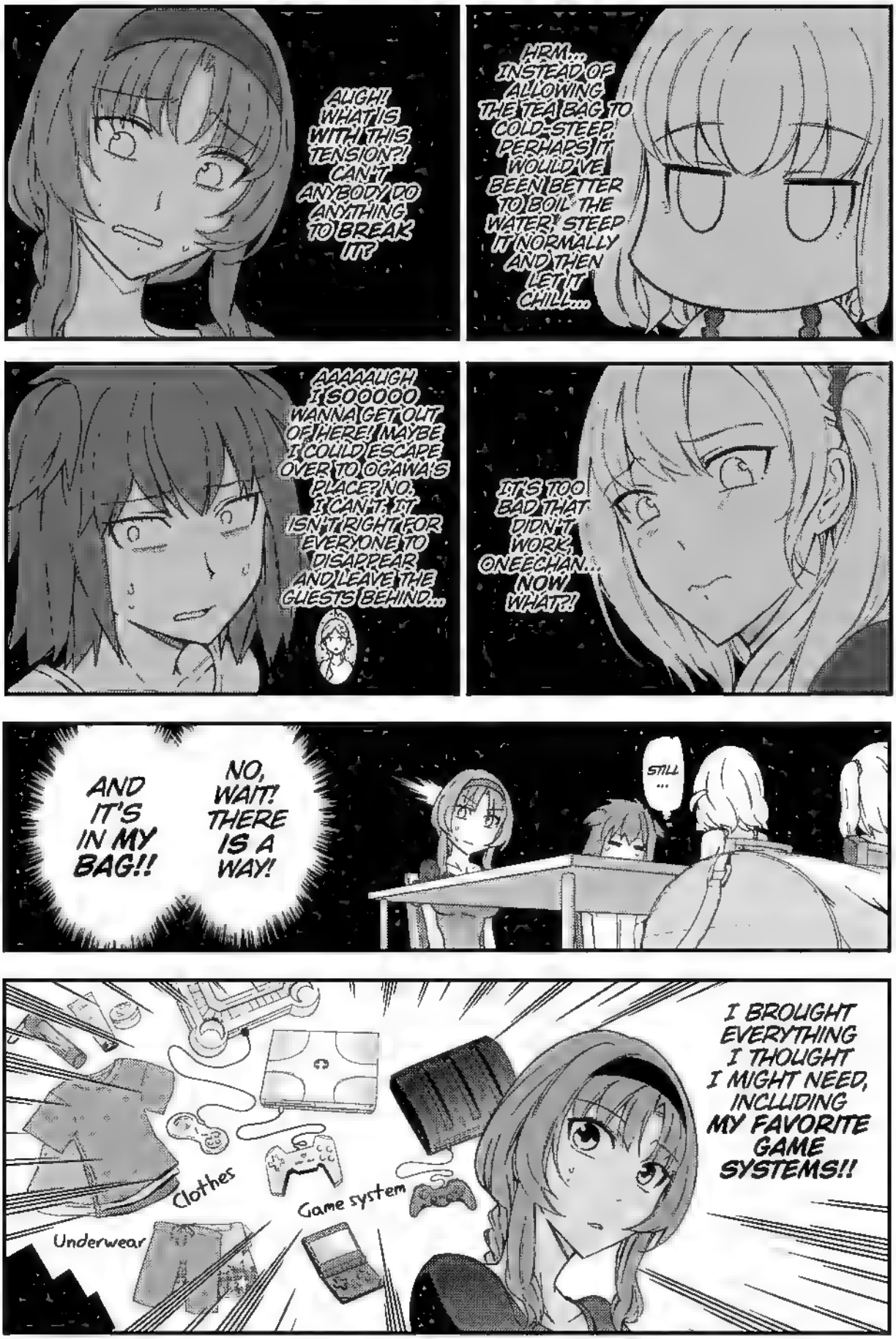
AH HA!

I'M A GUEST AS WELL. ALLOW ME.
NO, I'M THE GUEST. LET ME!
NO NO, PLEASE ALLOW ME. I'LL GET SOME.
NO, I LIVE HERE! I SHOULD DO IT!


UH, I-I'LL GO GET SOME MORE TEA.
AH! YOU'RE RIGHT. THE CUP IS EMPTY.
OH, LOOK. THE CUP IS EMPTY.

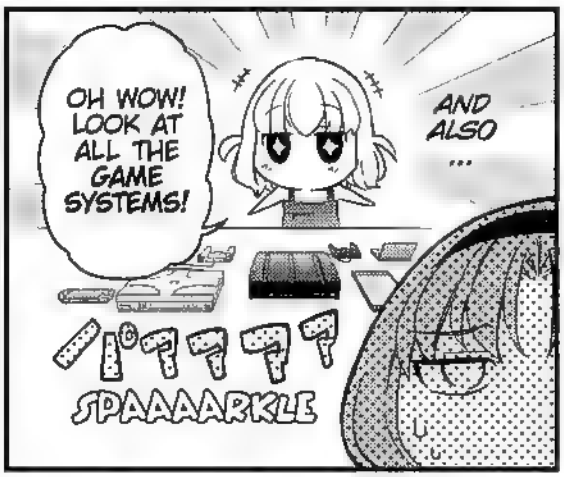

KALPISU
KA-CHAAA
TONKATSU SAUCE

パ pah-tap
ーパーー
AH. THE BAG HASN'T STEEPED LONG ENOUGH.
TRUE...
ストーン…
PLUNK
AUGH! WE ALL SAT BACK DOWN!!


AUGH! WHAT IS WITH THIS TENSION?! CAN'T ANYBODY DO ANYTHING TO BREAK IT?
HRM... INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THE TEA BAG TO COLD-STEEP, PERHAPS IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER TO BOIL THE WATER, STEEP IT NORMALLY AND THEN LET IT CHILL...
AAAAAUGH I SOOOOO WANNA GET OUT OF HERE! MAYBE I COULD ESCAPE OVER TO OGAWA'S PLACE? NO, I CAN'T. IT ISN'T RIGHT FOR EVERYONE TO DISAPPEAR AND LEAVE THE GUESTS BEHIND...
IT'S TOO BAD THAT DIDN'T WORK, ONEECHAN... NOW WHAT?!
NO, WAIT! THERE IS A WAY!
AND IT'S IN MY BAG!!
STILL...
Clothes
Underwear
Game system
I BROUGHT EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEED, INCLUDING MY FAVORITE GAME SYSTEMS!!

ISN'T THAT LIKE SHOUTING TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT I REALLY JUST CAME OVER FOR AN EXTENDED VISIT?
THOUGH, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT WAS I DOING, BRINGING MULTIPLE GAME SYSTEMS ALONG WHEN I'M TECHNICALLY "RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME"?

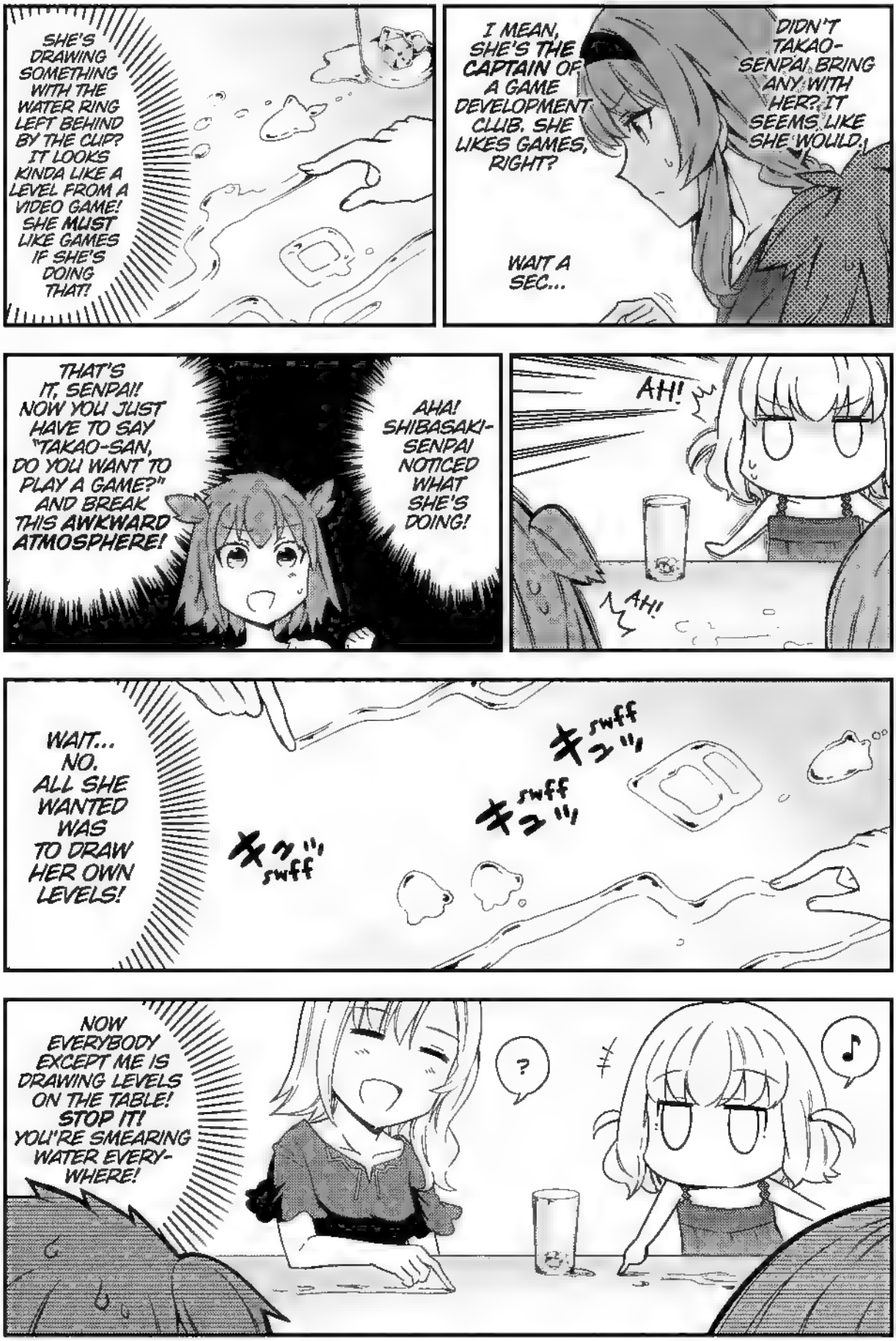
I HAD THIS ONE, TOO...
BUT THANKS TO THE METEOR STRIKE IT'S NOTHING BUT BROKEN BITS NOW.
AND THIS ONE... AND THIS ONE...
GLOOOOOM


OH WOW! LOOK AT ALL THE GAME SYSTEMS!
AND ALSO ...
SPAAAARKLE

THE ONES WE HAVE ARE ALL STORED IN HIS ROOM.
I CAN'T EXACTLY BARGE IN THERE TO GET THEM...

IF ONLY WE HAD SOME GAMES OR SOMETHING TO KILL TIME UNTIL ANIKI WAKES BACK UP...

I CAN'T DO THAT ...!!


SHE'S DRAWING SOMETHING WITH THE WATER RING LEFT BEHIND BY THE CUP? IT LOOKS KINDA LIKE A LEVEL FROM A VIDEO GAME! SHE MUST LIKE GAMES IF SHE'S DOING THAT!
I MEAN, SHE'S THE CAPTAIN OF A GAME DEVELOPMENT CLUB. SHE LIKES GAMES, RIGHT?
DIDN'T TAKAO-SENPAI BRING ANY WITH HER? IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WOULD.
WAIT A SEC...
THAT'S IT, SENPAI! NOW YOU JUST HAVE TO SAY "TAKAO-SAN, DO YOU WANT TO PLAY A GAME?" AND BREAK THIS AWKWARD ATMOSPHERE!
AHA! SHIBASAKI-SENPAI NOTICED WHAT SHE'S DOING!
AH!
AH!
WAIT... NO. ALL SHE WANTED WAS TO DRAW HER OWN LEVELS!
キュッ swff
キュッ swff
キュッ swff
NOW EVERYBODY EXCEPT ME IS DRAWING LEVELS ON THE TABLE! STOP IT! YOU'RE SMEARING WATER EVERY-WHERE!
?

OH NO!
THE WATER'S ALL GONE!
swff swff
キュキュ..
Hm? Water? I have some right here...
KA-TUNK
AT THIS RATE ...
DRAT!
HOW MUCH THE TEA HAS STEEPED HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WATER RINGS IT CAN MAKE!
THE COLOR IS STILL FAINT. IT HASN'T STEEPED ENOUGH YET.
KA CHAAAA

ONEECHAN, WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK FOR A GLASS OF WATER? THEN WE CAN KEEP DRAWING.
HOW ABOUT YOU JUST SUGGEST A NORMAL TOPIC OF CONVERSATION INSTEAD?!

AND SHE SAT RIGHT BACK DOWN AGAIN!
PLONK

IF YOU WANNA USE A CUP OF WATER, IT'S OKAY! GO AHEAD! REALLY!
Oh, okay...
USING GOOD, FRESH DRINKING WATER ON IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE WASTE!
NO! THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MUST ONLY BE DONE WITH WATER RINGS.

OH! YOU AGREE WITH ME, RIGHT TAKAO-SAN?

TSUTSUJI-CHAN, OUR HOSTS ARE BEING KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF US FOR A FEW DAYS. WE MUSTN'T BE GREEDY OR SELFISH.
RIGHT!
NONE OF US ARE GONNA CARE ABOUT ONE CUP OF TAP WATER!

HUH?! ALL OF YOU CAME UP WITH THAT STUPID LEVEL THING INDEPEN-DENT OF ONE ANOTHER?!
HUH? UM, WITH WHAT NOW?

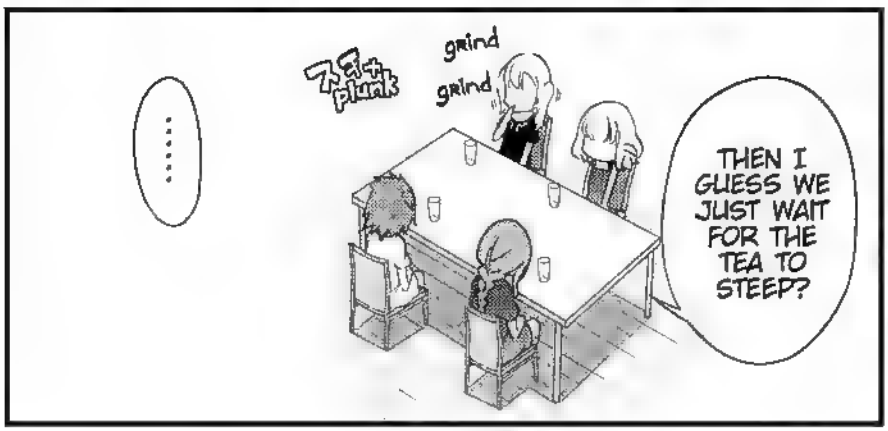
AUGH!! I SAID THAT LAST ONE OUT LOUD!
WHA?
HUH?
WELL, YEAH! THAT'S BECAUSE ALL OF YOU WERE JUST SCRIBBLING WHATEVER YOU WANTED AND IGNORING EVERYONE ELSE!
LOOK. SEE? THE STAGES DON'T CONNECT TOGETHER IN A SMOOTH OR INTUITIVE WAY.
WHAT, YOU COULD TELL?!
AH, YES. IT DOES LOOK LIKE WE WERE OUT OF SYNCH.
ARGH! ENOUGH OF THIS! EVERYONE JUST RELAX AND DO WHAT YOU WANT, OKAY?!

ERM... I WAS ALREADY DOING WHAT I WANTED ...
NO, I MEAN, MORE!! LIKE, MAKE YOUR-SELF COM-PLETELY AT HOME!!
UM ...
Huff huff...
THERE! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! I'LL POUR YOU A BIG GLASS RIGHT NOW!
KALPISU
I COULDN'T HELP, BUT NOTICE THE BOTTLE OF KALPISU NEXT TO THE TEA. MAY I HAVE SOME OF THAT?
THEN...
ピチョン... plip...
Sniff...
NO, NO, NO! THERE'S NO NEED TO GET UPSET!
I... I'M SORRY. W-WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO GIVE YOU... I FEEL SO EMBARRASSED NOW...
KALPISU

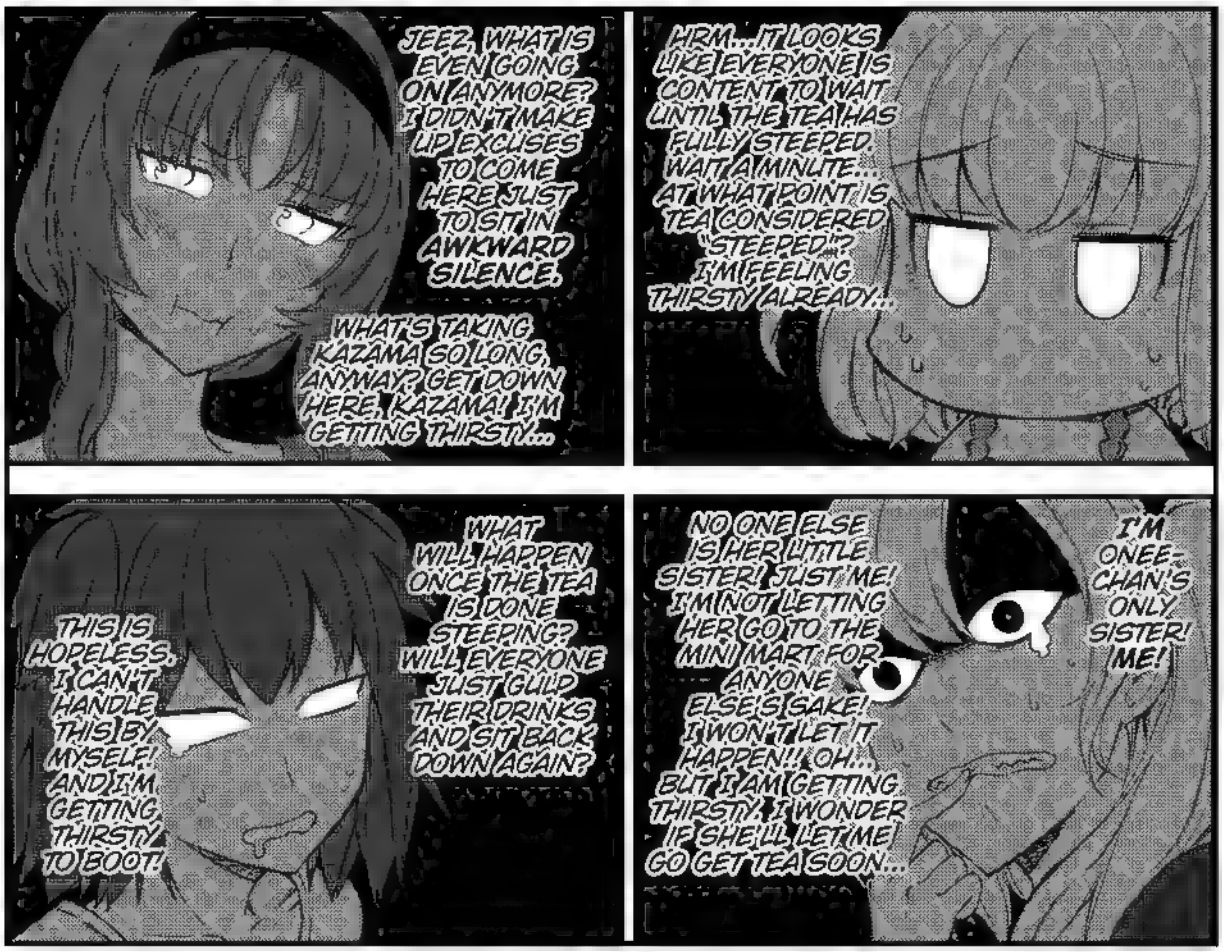
THIS IS A LOVELY HOUSE AND YOU ARE BEING A AWONDERFUL HOSTESS! YOU JUST HAPPEN TO NOT HAVE ANY TEA OR DRINKS AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW!
GRAB
FLAIL FLAIL
Y-YEAH! SHE'S RIGHT!
THIS IS A REALLY NICE PLACE!
THE WHOLE KAZAMA FAMILY IS FULL OF WONDERFUL PEOPLE! THREE CHEERS FOR THE KAZAMA FAMILY!!
FLAIL FLAIL

FOR NOW, PLEASE LET ME GO AND BUY US SOME DRINKS FROM THE LOCAL MINI MART.
AND DON'T YOU WORRY, I'LL EVEN BUY YOU AN ICE CREAM BAR! JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THAT NICE!
ICE CREAM ...?

ONEE-CHAN... IS BUYING ICE CREAM ...?
nibble nibble
YOU'RE GOING TO GET AN ICE CREAM BAR... FROM MY ONEE-CHAN...?
grind grind grind
.....
ER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT. It's very cold in here now.


THEN I GUESS WE JUST WAIT FOR THE TEA TO STEEP?
grind grind
スチャ plunk
.....

IS THAT SO...
.....


JEEZ, WHAT IS EVEN GOING ON ANYMORE? I DIDN'T MAKE UP EXCUSES TO COME HERE JUST TO SIT IN AWKWARD SILENCE.
WHAT'S TAKING KAZAMA SO LONG, ANYWAY? GET DOWN HERE, KAZAMA! I'M GETTING THIRSTY...
HRM... IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE IS CONTENT TO WAIT UNTIL THE TEA HAS FULLY STEEPED. WAIT A MINUTE... AT WHAT POINT IS TEA CONSIDERED 'STEEPED'? I'M FEELING THIRSTY ALREADY...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN ONCE THE TEA IS DONE STEEPING? WILL EVERYONE JUST GULP THEIR DRINKS AND SIT BACK DOWN AGAIN?
THIS IS HOPELESS. I CAN'T HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF! AND I'M GETTING THIRSTY, TO BOOT!
I'M ONEE-CHAN'S ONLY SISTER! ME!
NO ONE ELSE IS HER LITTLE SISTER! JUST ME! I'M NOT LETTING HER GO TO THE MINI MART FOR ANYONE ELSE'S SAKE! I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN!! OH... BUT I AM GETTING THIRSTY. I WONDER IF SHE'LL LET ME GO GET TEA SOON...

KA-CHAK
ONIICHAN, SAVE ME! PLEASE!!

コポ。
BLUB
BLUB
コポ。
コポ。
BLUB
ガチャ
KA-CHAAA
Uuugh... hot...!
Bleah! IT'S WARM.
ANIKI, LET US BOR-ROW YOUR GAMES !!
!!
JUST PLEASE LET US HAVE SOME!
I DON'T CARE !

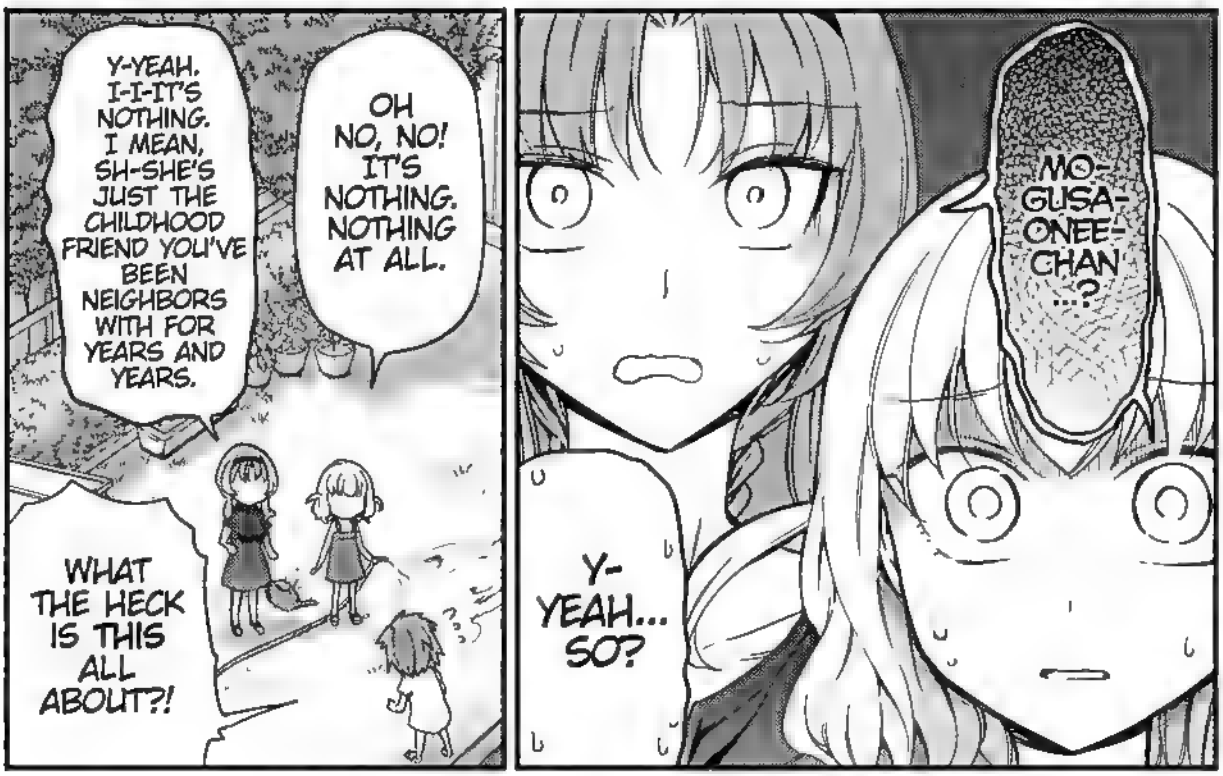
Ugh.
Ng...

D-FRAGMENTS

SO THAT'S IT...
Chapter 84
Wasn't That a Great Vacation?

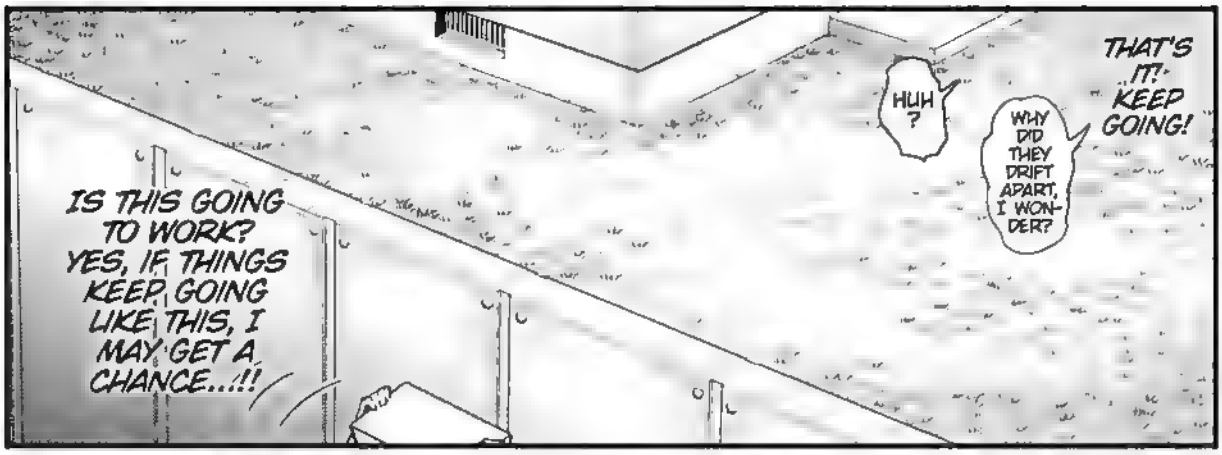
DOOOOOOM...
MOGUSA-CHAN'S HOUSE...
UMM... IT'S A PERFECTLY NORMAL TWO-STORY, SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE.

WH-WHAT... DO YOU NEED MOGUSA-ONEECHAN FOR SOME-THING?
AH!


MO-GUSA-ONEE-CHAN ...?
Y-YEAH... SO?
OH NO, NO! IT'S NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.
Y-YEAH. I-I-IT'S NOTHING. I MEAN, SH-SHE'S JUST THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND YOU'VE BEEN NEIGHBORS WITH FOR YEARS AND YEARS.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS ALL ABOUT?!

NO...
NOT THEM.
WE AREN'T TRYING TO SAY ANY-THING.
NO-THING!
ARE YOU TWO TRYING TO SAY SOME-THING?! JUST SPIT IT OUT!
WAIT... AND THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME?!
AAAUGH! WHY NOW OF ALL TIMES?!
コオオオ GWOOOO
WHY ARE THOSE PEOPLE AT THE KAZAMAS' HOUSE AGAIN?!
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
TAKE THIS SOUVENIR OVER TO THE KAZAMA'S, PLEASE.
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, MOM AND DAD! IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR GOING ON VACATION!!
AND MY FAULT FOR GOING, TOO.
WASN'T THAT A GREAT VACATION?
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE THE DAY I HAVE TO TAKE A GIFT OVER TO THE KAZAMAS?!

MIGHT I ASK YOU HOW... CLOSE YOU ARE WITH MOGUSA-CHAN? PLEASE BE HONEST.
HOLY CRAP, THIS IS CREEPY!
BY THE WAY...
What am I going to do?
HUH? WELL... ANIKI HASN'T HUNG OUT WITH HER MUCH AT ALL FOR YEARS NOW...
BUT MOGUSA-ONEECHAN AND I ARE STILL PRETTY CLOSE. WE GO OUT SHOPPING AND STUFF ALL THE TIME.
OH, OF COURSE. YOU DO CALL HER "ONEECHAN" AFTER ALL ...
UM, IS IT ME OR ARE YOU TWO SOUNDING REALLY BITCHY?
THOUGH, COME TO THINK OF IT... MOGUSA-CHAN DID SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT..
MAYBE IT'S TRUE, MAYBE SHE AND KAZAMA-SAN DON'T SEE EACH OTHER OFTEN...
THEY DON'T, HUH? WELL... THAT'S OKAY, THEN...
WAIT... WHAT'S THIS? THEIR WHOLE ATTITUDE CHANGED?
YES!! NICE GOING, NOE-CHAN!!


IS THIS GOING TO WORK? YES, IF THINGS KEEP GOING LIKE THIS, I MAY GET A CHANCE...!!!
HUH ?
WHY DID THEY DRIFT APART, I WONDER?
THAT'S IT! KEEP GOING!

Kenji an' Mogusa, sittin' in a tree!
Hee hee hee!
Ooooh!
WAS BECAUSE THEY WALKED TO SCHOOL TOGETHER A FEW TIMES DURING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND THEIR CLASSMATES ALL MADE FUN OF THEM FOR IT.

HMM... LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, I THINK PART OF THE REASON ANIKI STOPPED HANGING OUT WITH MOGUSA-CHAN SO MUCH...

THEY AREN'T REALLY GOING TO GET UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED YEARS AGO IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... ARE THEY?
AND GOT PICK-ED ON FOR IT?!
?!!
THEY WALKED TO SCHOOL TO-GETH-ER?!

SPLSSSSSHHH...
C-COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THAT?
THEY ARE?! SERIOUSLY?! THAT WAS NEARLY TEN YEARS AGO!
SPLOOSH!

OHMIGOSH! TAKAO-SENPAI, YOU'RE GETTING SOAKED! ARE YOU OKAY?!
SPLEEN!
NEVER-MIND -:BLRPH!:- THAT. TELL ME -:PPFFF!:- MORE ABOUT -:GURPH!:- THAT!
SERI-OUSLY ?!
THE GRASS IS GONNA DIE IF YOU OVER-WATER IT!

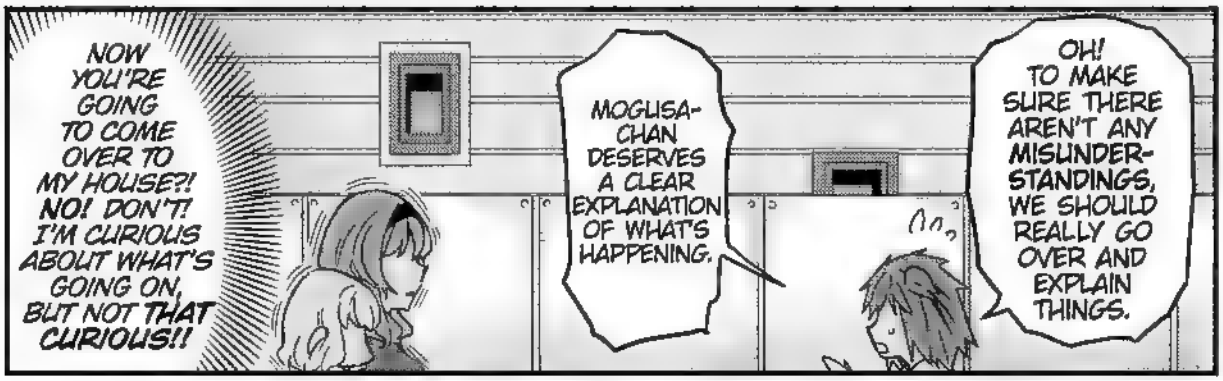
UMM, IT'S BEEN SO LONG I REALLY CAN'T REMEMBER ...
OH, WAIT ...

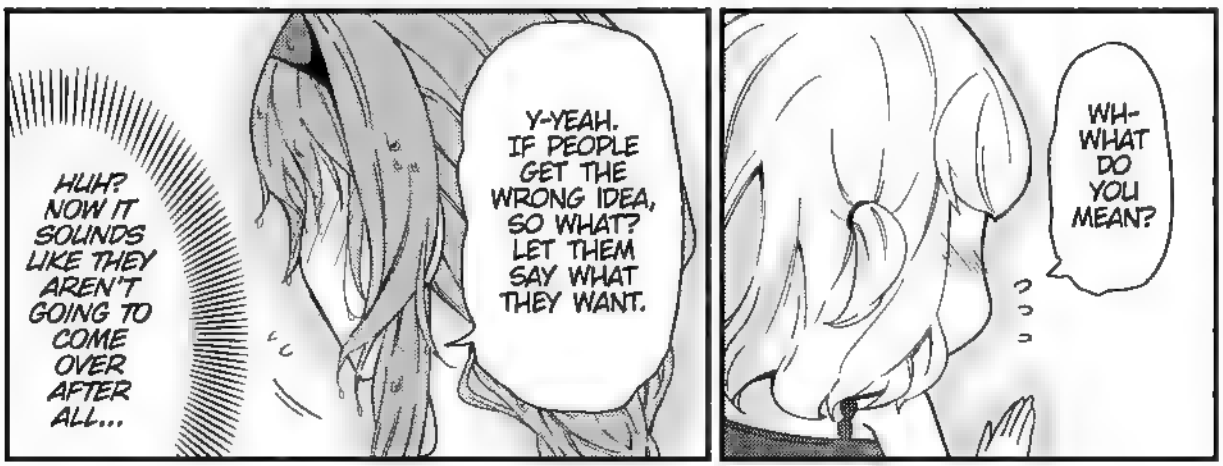
PLEASE!
Bluph!
URK!
GLEAM

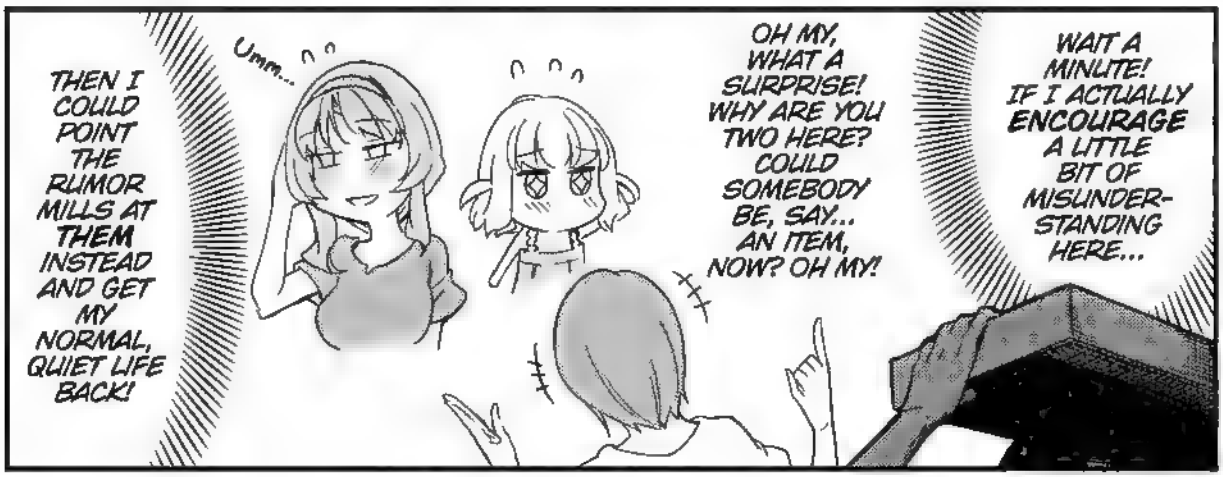
I THINK I RE-MEMBER ATARU SAYING SOME-THING ABOUT IT...
BOTH OF THEM FLAT OUT DENIED IT, BUT!.. Y'KNOW WHAT? METHINKS THEY DOTH PROTEST TOO MUCH! FROM WHERE I WAS STANDING THEY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THEY WERE TOO AGAINST THE IDEA!
DAMN IT, KAWA-HARA-KUN!
WOOOM!

SPLSHHHH
SPLSHHHH
THEY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THEY WERE TOO AGAINST THE IDEA?!
HOLY CRAP, SHE'S ACTUALLY TAKING IT THAT SERI-OUSLY?!
I DIDN'T KNOW OUR HOSE HAD THAT KIND OF WATER PRES-SURE!
SPLEFFT
SPLORRBLL
AH! YOU'RE SPRAY-ING WATER INTO MOGLISA-CHAN'S YARD!
THAT'S SO SWEET! I WISH I'D HAD LOVELY AND HEART-WARMING MOMENTS LIKE THAT IN MY YOUTH.
STILL... WHAT A HEART-WARMING STORY OF YOUTHFUL ROMANCE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU'RE STILL SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR YOUTH!!
OH, ER, MY APOLOGIES. I MUST HAVE SQUEEZED THE HOSE TOO HARD BY ACCIDENT.
WATCH OUT! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
HUFF "
HUFF "
HUFF! "
NOW THEY'RE EVEN ATTACKING MY HOME?
Do they know I'm here?

UM, IT FEELS KIND OF WEIRD CALLING SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL A "ROMANCE."
BUT THE IDEA OF TEENAGED GUYS AND GIRLS SLEEPING UNDER THE SAME ROOF SEEMS WAY MORE, WELL...UH, "ROMANTIC" TO ME.
YES! THAT'S RIGHT! YOU TELL THEM, NOE-CHAN! ...WAIT, THOSE TWO ARE LIVING WITH YOU NOW? WHAT?!

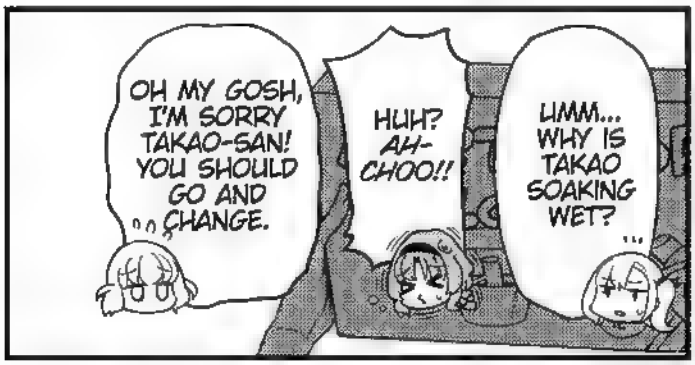

OH! TO MAKE SURE THERE AREN'T ANY MISUNDER-STANDINGS, WE SHOULD REALLY GO OVER AND EXPLAIN THINGS.
MOGUSA-CHAN DESERVES A CLEAR EXPLANATION OF WHAT'S HAPPENING.
NOW YOU'RE GOING TO COME OVER TO MY HOUSE?! NO! DON'T! I'M CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT NOT THAT CURIOUS!!


WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Y-YEAH. IF PEOPLE GET THE WRONG IDEA, SO WHAT? LET THEM SAY WHAT THEY WANT.
HUH? NOW IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY AREN'T GOING TO COME OVER AFTER ALL...


WAIT A MINUTE! IF I ACTUALLY ENCOURAGE A LITTLE BIT OF MISUNDER-STANDING HERE...
OH MY, WHAT A SURPRISE! WHY ARE YOU TWO HERE? COULD SOMEBODY BE, SAY... AN ITEM, NOW? OH MY!
Umm...
THEN I COULD POINT THE RUMOR MILLS AT THEM INSTEAD AND GET MY NORMAL, QUIET LIFE BACK!

THIS GIFT IS THE PERFECT EXCUSE! I'M GOING TO TAKE IT OVER...
AND FINALLY LAY TO REST ALL THE WRONG IDEAS PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT ME.
I DON'T WANT TO GO OVER THERE RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M GOING TO DO IT ANYWAY FOR THE SAKE O MY PEACE OF MIND!
YES. LET'S GO!
I'M ACTUALLY GLAD FOR THIS GIFT NOW... HUH?
MORTAR OF LOVE
WHYYYYY?! WHY DID WE HAVE TO GO TO HOKKAIDO AND GET THESE STUPID, FAMOUS HOKKAIDO SWEETS?!
MOGUSA, ISN'T THIS SEA-FOOD AND RICE BOWL DELI-CIOUS?
YES! YES, IT WAS! BUT WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE GOTTEN A MORE BORING GIFT, LIKE TOKYO BANANA OR SOMETHING?!
MAYBE IT'S HER WAY OF TELLING US SHE'S LAID HER CLAIM AND TO BACK OFF?
WHA? MORTAR... OF LOVE? AND MOGUSA-CHAN CAME OVER TO DELIVER THEM IN PERSON? IS THIS SOME KIND OF MESSAGE?!
AAAUGH!! I FORGOT THESE SWEETS HAD A NAME THAT IS GOING TO GIVE EVERYONE THE COMPLETELY WRONG IDEA!!
LOVE
shvr shvr shvr

I KNOW I WAS ON A DIET. I KNOW I ATE TOO MANY YUMMY SEAFOOD AND RICE BOWLS. I KNOW I ATE TOO MUCH JUNK FOOD ON THE TRIP BACK. BUT I HAVE TO EAT THEM ALL!
I HAVE TO EAT ALL OF THESE SWEETS BY MYSELF. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
MORTAR OF LOVE


OH MY GOSH, I'M SORRY TAKAO-SAN! YOU SHOULD GO AND CHANGE.
HUH? AH-CHOO!!
UMM... WHY IS TAKAO SOAKING WET?

OH YES. WE WERE GOING TO DO THAT, WEREN'T WE?
ONEECHAN! EVERYTHING'S READY. LET'S GO SHOPPING FOR STUFF FOR DINNER TONIGHT!

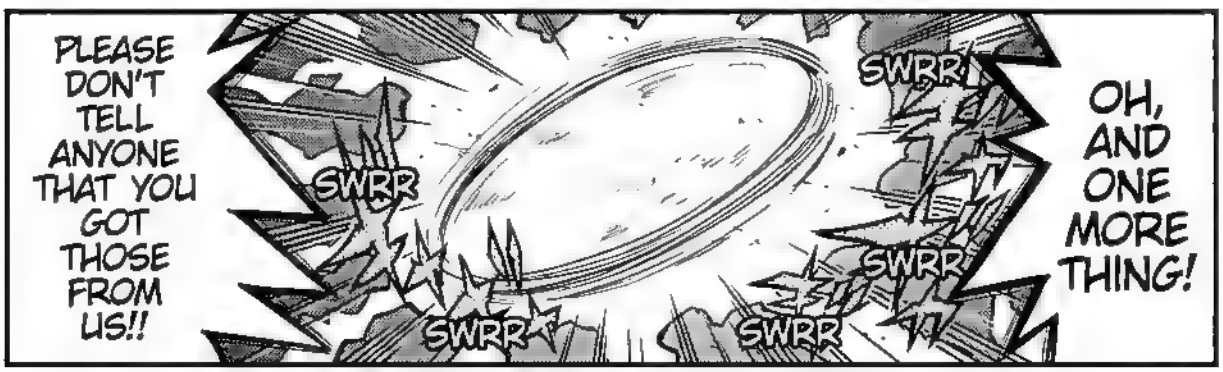
SO HUGE !!
UM! I WAS ABOUT TO GO GET CHANGED!
AH-CHOO!
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU SOAKED?
MOR-NIN'.
GOOD MORNING!
MNPH... MORNIN' EVERY-ONE.

dap
BTAM
SEE YA!
WE'LL BE BACK SOON!
HUH?
OH, UH, THANKS. BE CAREFUL.
Ahem!
WELL THEN, EVERYONE. LET'S GO SHOPPING FOR INGREDIENTS FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER.

HOLY CRAP...
QUAGMIRE...
DID IT RAIN OR SOMETHING?
THE YARD IS DRENCHED!
TOP
?
HUH? MOGUSA-CHAN, IS THAT YOU?
UM, AUNTIE KAZAMA...

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS GIFT! WE BOUGHT IT FOR YOU ON OUR VACATION!!
SWRR
SWRR
SWRR
WRR
WHY ARE YOU THROW-ING IT AT ME?!

WH-WHAT THE HECK?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

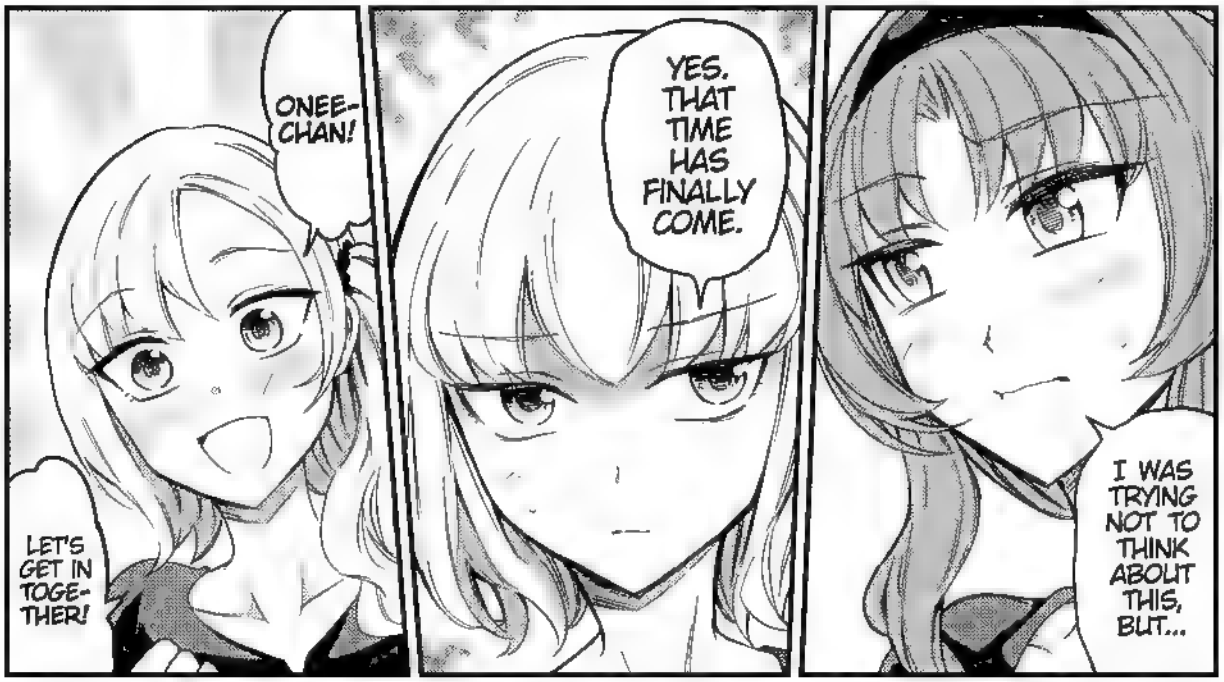

OH, AND ONE MORE THING!
SWRR
SWRR
SWRR
SWRR
SWRR
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT YOU GOT THOSE FROM US!!

WHY ARE KIDS TODAY SO FREAKIN' WEIRD ?!
SHHHHH
SKSSSS
AND NOW ANYTHING THIS BOX HAS IS TOTALLY CRUSHED !
WHAP

SKRUNCH...
MORTAR OF LOVE
WHAT EVEN IS THIS?

D-FRAGMENTS

ヒoPIP…
チョーイ…
Chapter 85:
Plank


ONEE-CHAN!
LET'S GET IN TOGE-THER!
YES. THAT TIME HAS FINALLY COME.
I WAS TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT THIS, BUT...

BATH TIME!!
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THE BODY WASH AND SHAMPOO.
HERE ARE SOME TOWELS.

WELL ...
fidget
fidget
fidget
fidget
LMM ...
WHAT?

OH, SO NOW YOU'RE FEELING SHY, HUH?!
A TAD INTIMATE.
USING THE BATH AT THE HOME OF A MALE CLASSMATE IS, TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST...

YOU STILL NEED TO STAY CLEAN SOMEHOW, YA' KNOW...
BUT ...

YEAH, SURE, OF COURSE. ANY TEENAGE GIRL WOULD BE HESITANT ABOUT USING THE SAME BATH AS A TEENAGE GUY.
SAYS THE TWO WHO DELIBERATELY SOUGHT SAID GUY CLASS-MATE'S HOUSE TO STAY AT.

GOOD! I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT!
ME TOO!
OF COURSE! I'M A VERY CLEAN PERSON!

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT WHO GETS IN FIRST?
I-IT ISN'T THAT EASY! IT'S HARD TO CHOOSE, YOU KNOW ...
WHO WILL GO FIRST AND WHAT-NOT?
THEN I GUESS WE'RE ALL JUST GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A BATH.
ANIKI ISN'T THE SORT OF GUY TO CARE ABOUT THAT!!
(I don't think.)
THIS IS THE SAME WATER THE GIRLS SOAKED IN...
YES! SAY, FOR EXAMPLE, KAZAMA-SAN TAKES HIS BATH DIRECTLY AFTER WE DO...
KAZAMA-SAN! WE'LL BE TAKING OUR BATHS FIRST, IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU!
I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
WELL, YOU GOT OVER THAT PRETTY QUICKLY!
SAYS THE PERSON WHO HAD NO PROBLEM DRENCHING OUR YARD THIS AFTERNOON!
NO, I COULDN'T ASK YOU TO DO THAT! THAT WOULD BE A WASTE OF WATER!
IF IT REALLY BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH, I'LL DRAIN THE TUB AFTER YOU'RE DONE AND REFILL IT!

HE DIDN'T COME DOWN TO JOIN US FOR DINNER, EITHER.
YEAH. HE ONLY CAME DOWN FOR A CUP OF TEA AND TO LEND ME THE GAME SYSTEMS.
.....
SILENCE...!!
NO RE-SPONSE AGAIN, I SEE.
HRM... AND WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO NOT GO UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR...
SO WHAT? IF ANIKI WANTS TO HIDE IN HIS ROOM, LET HIM.
BUT! BUT! WHAT IF HE COMES DOWN TO TAKE A BATH AND, IGNORANT OF OUR PLANS, ACCIDENTALLY WALKS IN ON ONE OF US?!
DWOAH?!
NOTHING LIKE THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED WITH US BEFORE. IT'S EASY TO TELL SOMEONE'S IN THE BATH BY THE LIGHT.
THEN WHAT IF HE ACCIDENTALLY OPENS THE BATHROOM DOOR WHILE ONE OF US IS CHANGING?!
DWOAH?!
WELL, UH, IN THAT CASE ...
HOLD ON! SHIBASAKI-SENPAI, YOU KEEP SAYING "ONE OF US," BUT NONE OF YOUR MENTAL IMAGES ARE OF YOU!

A flat chest is the best chest!
I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT, BUT IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME...
DON'T WORRY, ONEECHAN! I LIKE YOUR PLANK FEATURES WAY MORE THAN I LIKE BWOING!
HUH?!
I'M SURE TAKAO-SAN'S "BWOING" WOULD BE A LOT MORE APPRECIATED THAN MY "PLANK."

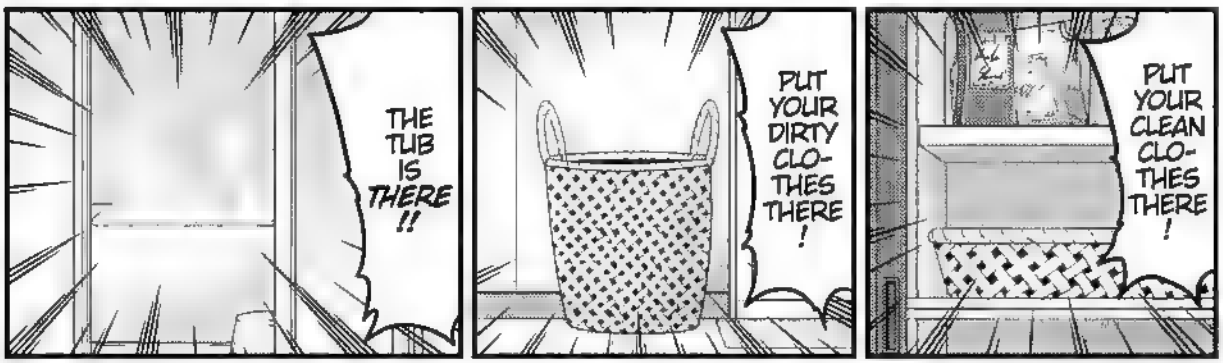
THAT WORKS, RIGHT? NOBODY WILL ACCIDENTALLY WALK IN ON ANYBODY THAT WAY!
Takao-senpai is bathing.
I'LL PUT A NOTE ON THE DOOR SAYING WHO'S INSIDE!
OKAY, OKAY! WE'LL DO IT LIKE THIS!

THAT'S GREAT. NOW PLEASE, HURRY UP AND GET IN.
NOW WE CAN ALL TAKE OUR BATHS WITH PEACE OF MIND.
OH WELL! ALL JOKING ASIDE ...
THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN!
OH. IT WON'T, HUH ...
THEN IF HE DOES WALK IN ON US, THIS MEANS IT WILL HAVE BEEN DELIBERATE ...?

IF IT'S NOT ONE THING, IT'S ANOTHER!
IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO TAKE MY BATH WITH YOU, NOE-CHAN.
OH! BY THE WAY ...
FREEZE
UM... THAT'S A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR ME... SORRY.
BY TAKING A BATH TOGETH-ER?
WE DON'T GET A CHANCE TO SPEND QUALITY TIME TOGETHER. WE SHOULD MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
ERM ...!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?!
GYA AH !!
WH-AAAT ABOUT ... ME-EEE?
UUUH ... Ö-ONEE-CHAN ...?
Um! H-Hi!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN WE ALL VISITED ADVENTURE ISLAND, YOU KEPT YOURSELF FIRMLY WRAPPED IN A TOWEL THE WHOLE TIME. YOU SHOULDN'T BE ASHAMED OF YOUR BODY, NOE!
FREEZE
OKAY! OKAY! I'LL DO IT! JEEZ!

IT IS HIGH TIME YOU LEARNED TO GET ALONG WITHOUT YOUR BIG SISTER, TSUTSUJI.
PLEASE TAKE YOUR BATH WITH TAKAO-SAN.
WHA ?!
ONEECHAN, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE MAD AT ME FOR CALLING YOU A PLANK?!
UM, I DON'T PARTICULARLY MIND...
WHO CARES? I MIND!!
TAKAO CAN TAKE HER STUPID BATH WITH THE LITTLE SISTER!!
Takao-senpai + Kazama is bathing
HEY! WHOA! IF YOU JUST USE MY LAST NAME IT MIGHT GIVE PEOPLE THE WRONG IDEA!
WELL TAKAO GOES BY JUST HER LAST NAME!
puff
puff
puff
puff
puff
TAKAO-SAN!!
TAKAO-SAN?
TAKAO-SAN?
Aaaah!! Takao-san hasn't even gotten in the bath and she's overheated already?!

NONE OF THAT MATTERS !!
PLEASE JUST TAKE YOUR BATHS !!
!!


PUT YOUR CLEAN CLO-THES THERE !
PUT YOUR DIRTY CLO-THES THERE !
THE TUB IS THERE !!

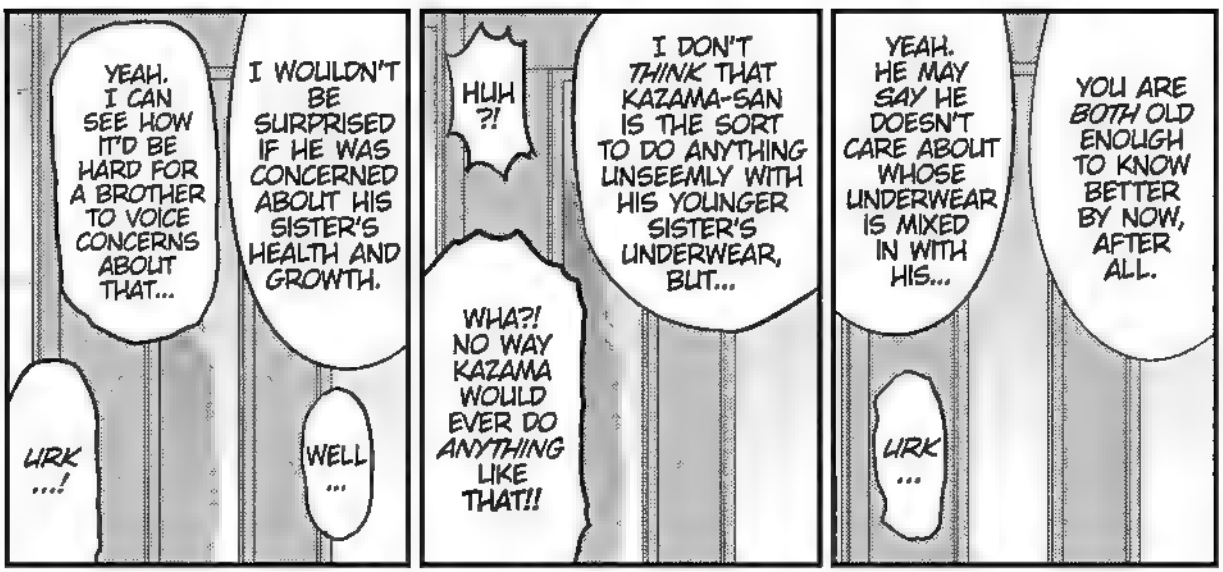
ANY QUES-TIONS ?!

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
UM...
WHAT ?!

YES!!
DOES EVERYONE'S DIRTY CLOTHING GO IN THE SAME HAMPER?
YES.
ALL OF OUR UNDER-WEAR, TOO?
DOES THAT INCLUDE, UM...
UM...
AS A VIRTUOUS YOUNG WOMAN, I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT...
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR BROTHER'S UNDERWEAR WILL GO IN THE SAME HAMPER AS OURS?

C-C'MON... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
O-OF COURSE WE SEPARATE EVERY-BODY'S UNDERWEAR.
YEAH, YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T!!

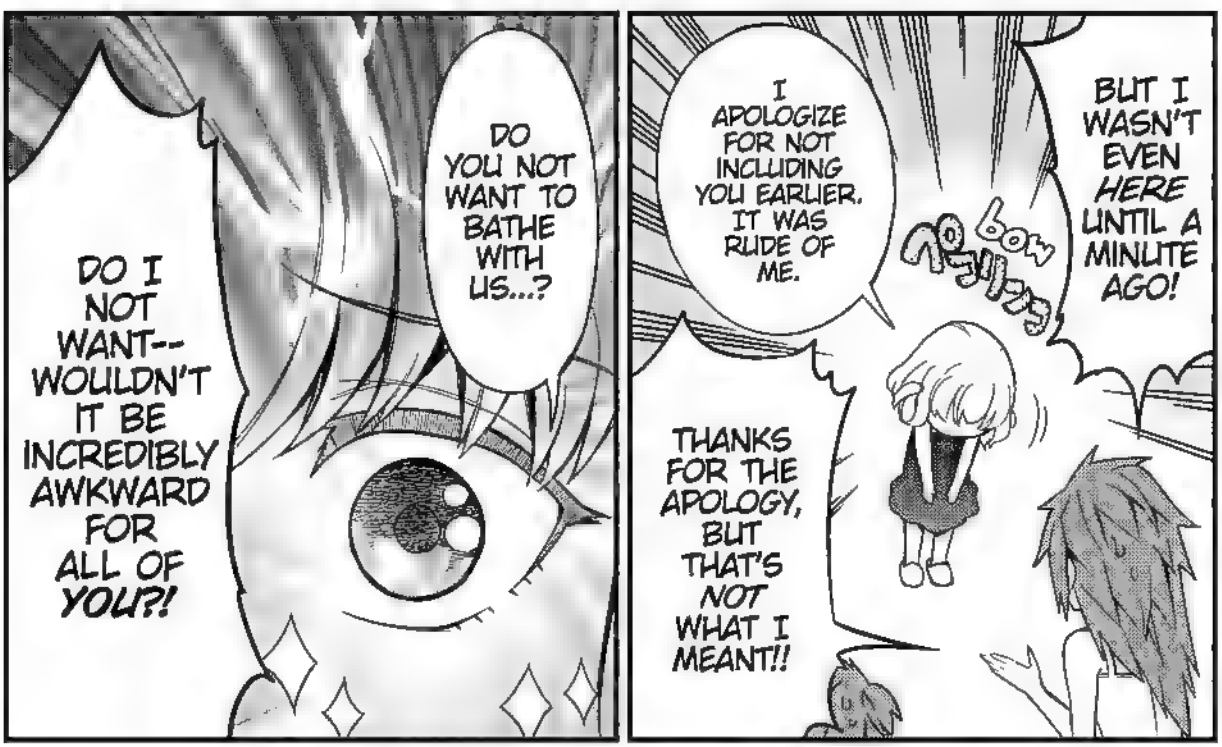
YOU CAN'T GO AROUND DUMPING A GUY'S UNDERWEAR IN WITH ALL THE GIRLS'.
H-HEY! I JUST *SAID* WE SEPARATE THEM!
IT'S SIMPLY UNHEARD OF.
YEAH, THAT'S SUPER PROB-LEM-ATICAL.
!!


YOU ARE *BOTH* OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER BY NOW, AFTER ALL.
YEAH. HE MAY *SAY* HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT WHOSE UNDERWEAR IS MIXED IN WITH HIS...
URK ...
I DON'T *THINK* THAT KAZAMA-SAN IS THE SORT TO DO ANYTHING UNSEEMLY WITH HIS YOUNGER SISTER'S UNDERWEAR, BUT...
HUH ?!
WHA?! NO WAY KAZAMA WOULD EVER DO *ANYTHING* LIKE THAT!!
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SISTER'S HEALTH AND GROWTH.
YEAH. I CAN SEE HOW IT'D BE HARD FOR A BROTHER TO VOICE CONCERNS ABOUT THAT...
WELL ...
URK ...!

JUST SHUT UP AND TAKE YOUR DAMN BATHS!!
KAZA-MAMA!
BA-
ENOUGH!! ALL OF YOU!!
WHAM
IT'S NIGHTTIME! PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO RELAX!
YOU'LL ANNOY THE NEIGH-BORS!
AND QUIT BEING SO DAMN LOUD!
HM.
shva shva
shva
shva shva
Aaaah
WE'RE SORRY...
STARTING TOMORROW, PUT YOUR CLOTHES AND, UH... UNDERWEAR... IN A DIFFERENT BASKET.
!!
AND NOE?

ACTUALLY, ALL OF YOU MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR UNDER-- I MEAN, YOUR DIRTY CLOTHES-- READY TO GO IN THE WASH TOMORROW MORNING.
NOW QUIT STALLING AND TAKE YOUR BATHS.
Yes, ma'am!
NOW THEN, LET'S USE ROCK PAPER SCISSORS TO DETERMINE WHO BATHES WITH WHOM!
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, I REALLY DON'T CARE.

HM? WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MOTHER?
?
WE HAVE TO DO ROCK PAPER SCISSORS!
WHAT, YOU'RE INCLUDING ME IN THIS?!

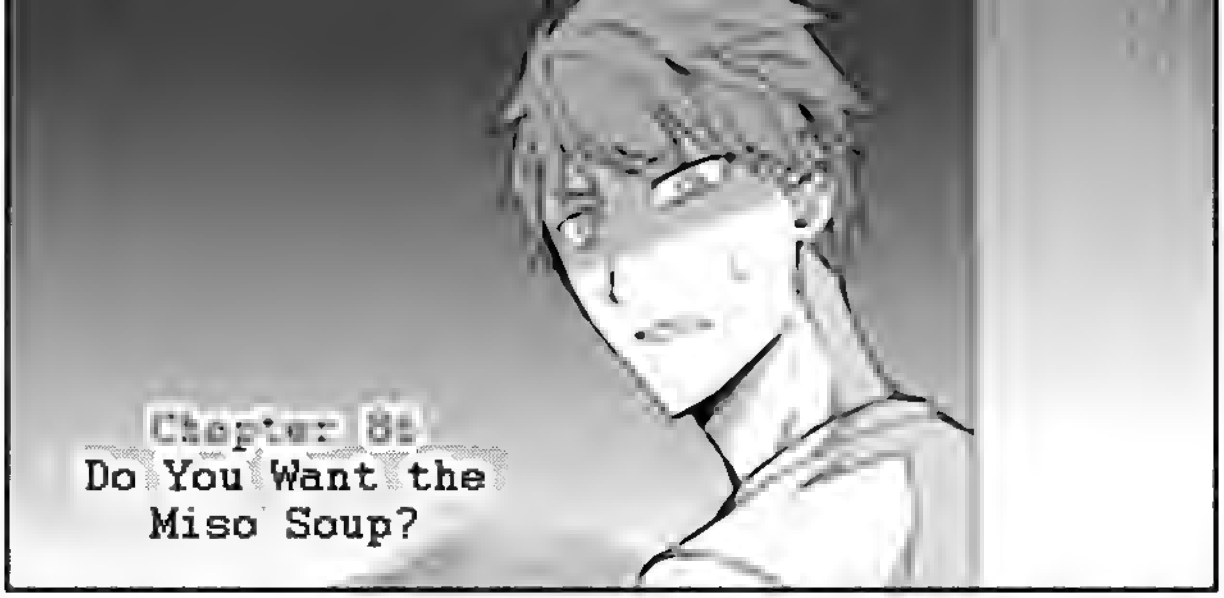

BUT I WASN'T EVEN HERE UNTIL A MINUTE AGO!
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT INCLUDING YOU EARLIER. IT WAS RUDE OF ME.
bow ペコリ
THANKS FOR THE APOLOGY, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!!
DO YOU NOT WANT TO BATHE WITH US...?
DO I NOT WANT-- WOULDN'T IT BE INCREDIBLY AWKWARD FOR ALL OF YOU?!

.....
.....
REALLY?! YOU DON'T MIND TAKING A BATH WITH AN OLD LADY LIKE ME?!
Y-YOU CAN JOIN US.
I'D BE HAPPY TO WASH YOUR BACK!
I DON'T SEE WHY IT WOULD BE. I WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU JOINED US.
IS EVERY-ONE READY?
READY! SET!
WELL THEN, LET'S USE ROCK PAPER SCISSORS TO DETER-MINE THE PAIRS.
BUT REMEMBER, OUR BATH IS ONLY NORMAL SIZED. IT'S NOT THAT BIG...
AT LEAST MAKE IT THREE PAIRS...
IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME.
GOOOOOO!!
KA-PLOOSH

おぉ kabfush
……
ぴゃ？
SPLISH...？
……
おぉ SPLASH
♪
……
おぉ kabplish
……
……
LIM, MOM?
DO YOU WANT ME TO WASH YOUR BACK?
OH, UH...
SURE. IF YOU DON'T MIND.

WASHA
WASHA
A not-
unhappy
Kaza-
mama.

D-FRAGMENTS


Chapter 81
Do You Want the Miso Soup?

?!

THEY PRE-PARED CARDS AHEAD OF TIME?!
EAT.
PLEASE EAT.
swish
swish
flip
flip
flip
flip
flip
flip
flip
flip
flip
flip
DON'T TELL ME YOU STAKED OUT THE KITCHEN, WAITING FOR ME TO COME DOWN!
WHAT THE HECK ?!
SHA-DDAP!!
Quiet!
PLEASE BE QUIET.
swish
swish
UH, DID YOU REALLY NEED TO WRITE THAT DOWN?
WHAT A WASTE OF PAPER!
Yeah.
YES.
swish

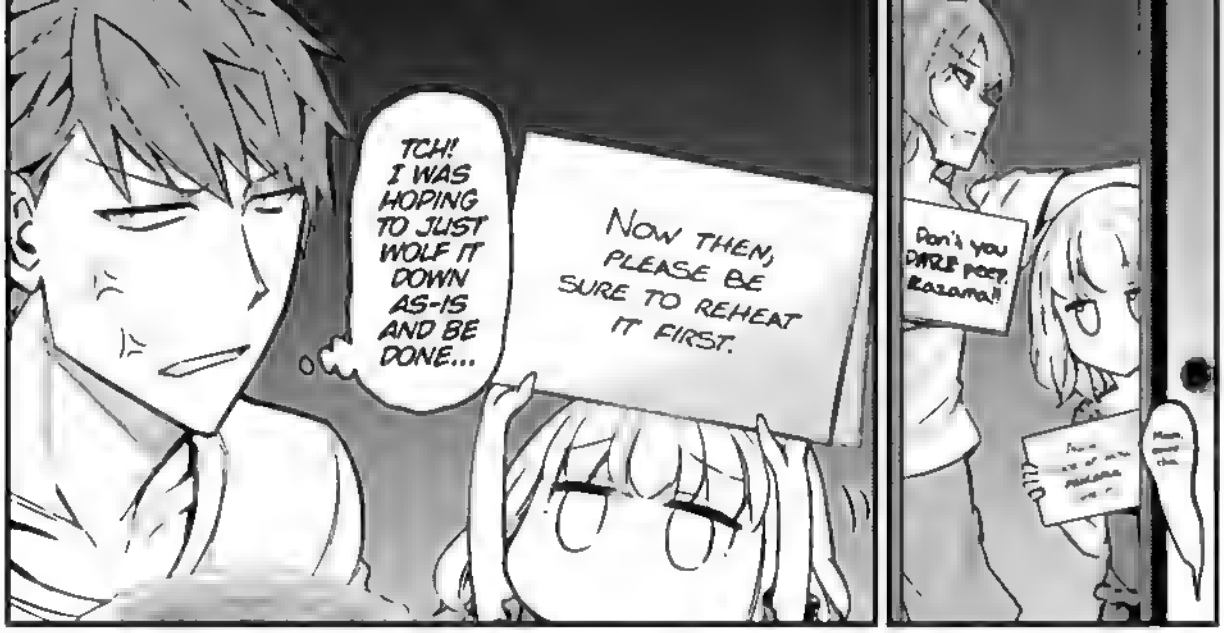
OKAY, SO THEY'RE ACTUALLY (IN THEIR OWN CRAZY WAY) TRYING TO BE CONSID-ERATE. BUT STILL!
It's really late.
It's polite to be quiet
……!!

OKAY. OKAY. I GET IT.
I'LL EAT. JEEZ!

QUIET!!
?!

OH, SO YOU WERE WAITING TO SEE IF I'D LET YOU HAVE IT INSTEAD, HUH?!
GU-RR-RR-RG-
GM

くぉ~
ZZZZZ


TCH! I WAS HOPING TO JUST WOLF IT DOWN AS-IS AND BE DONE...
NOW THEN, PLEASE BE SURE TO REHEAT IT FIRST.
Don't you DARE poop, Kazama!!

GIVE UP ALREADY!
flip
OH...! THE PORK CUTLET... ONE BITE? PLEASE?
DROOL...

DO YOU WANT THE MISO SOUP?
What about the miso soup?
?
The miso soup, too.

ピッ
BIP
OKAY! OKAY! I'LL REHEAT THE DAMN SOUP, TOO!
I made that miso soup...

One bite of pork cutlet.
UHHH ... Y'KNOW ...
THIS IS REALLY AWKWARD WITH YOU STARING AT ME.
.....
JUST GO BACK TO BED!!
WALL
UM-MM ...
UH ...
OH.
WHAT --?
PEEK
PEEK
PEEK
PEEK
WALL

IT'S GOOD, OKAY?
NOW GO BACK TO BED.

I KNOW THIS IS KINDA LATE, BUT DIDN'T EITHER OF YOU THINK OF JUST WHISPERING INSTEAD OF DRAWING ALL THAT?!

OKAY! OKAY! YOU CAN MAKE SOUP FOR ME TOMORROW! JUST GO TO BED!!
That's true...

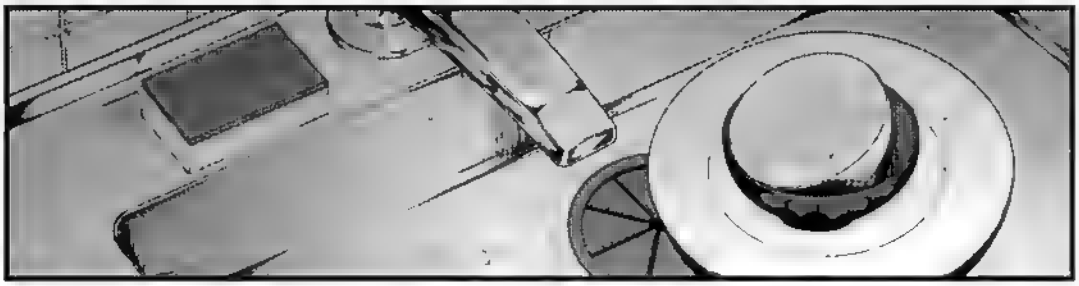
I'll make more miso soup for you ~~tonight~~ tomorrow too!!
NAH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
WE MIGHT EAT OUT TOM-OR-ROW.

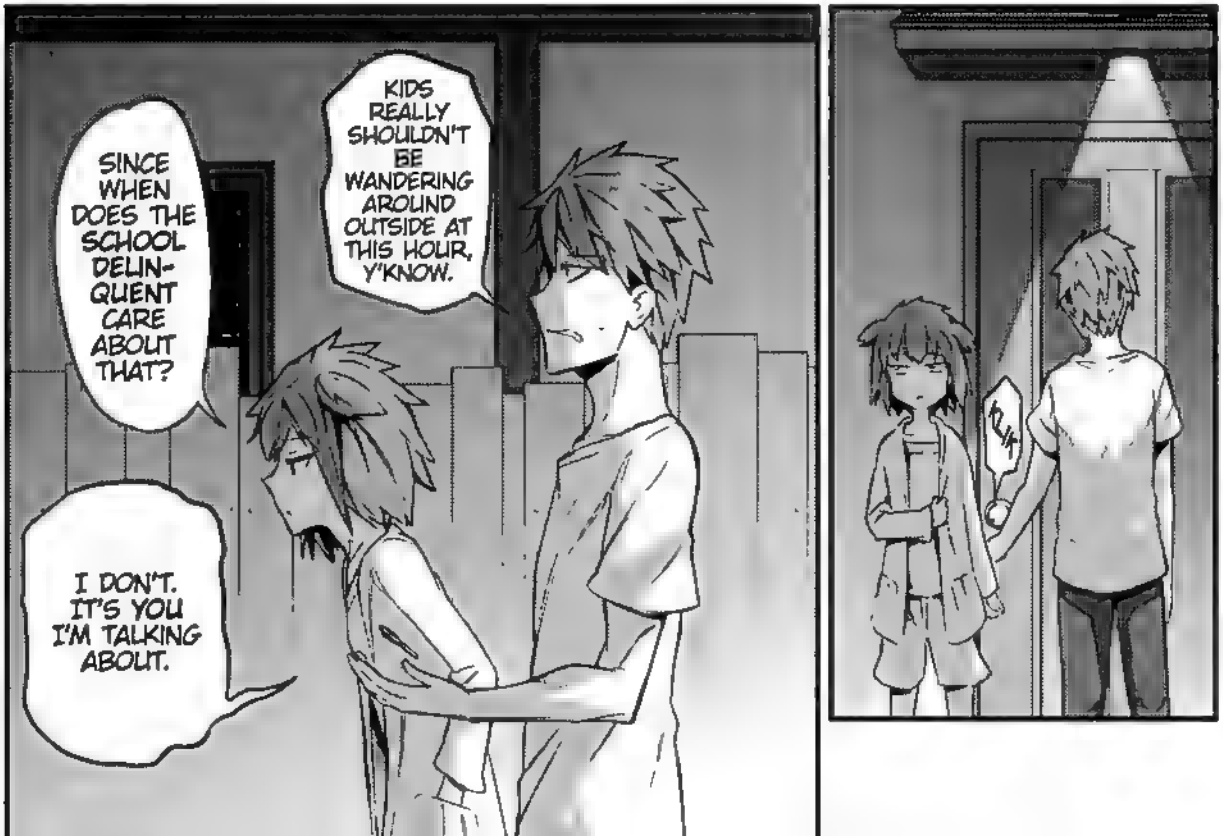
freeze
AH!
!!

tip tip
Okay.
Okay!

GOOD NIGHT.
NIGHT.
.....
I WANT ICE CREAM.
WHEW! NOW I CAN FINALLY EAT IN PEACE...
.....
BTAM

YOU WANT DESSERT AFTER DINNER, RIGHT ANIKI?
ESPE-CIALLY AFTER A REALLY LONG AND TIRING DAY.
ICE CREAM IS AWE-SOME.

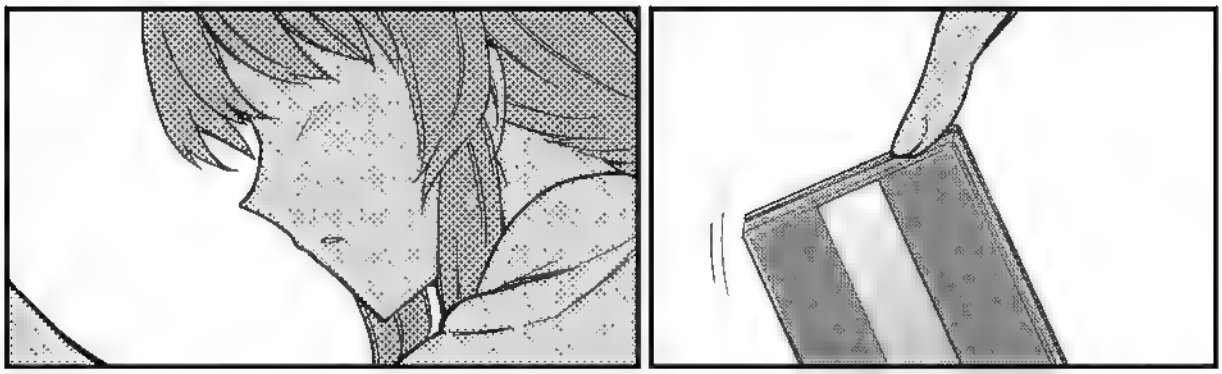



SINCE WHEN DOES THE SCHOOL DELIN-QUENT CARE ABOUT THAT?
KIDS REALLY SHOULDN'T BE WANDERING AROUND OUTSIDE AT THIS HOUR, Y'KNOW.
I DON'T. IT'S YOU I'M TALKING ABOUT.

GOD, WHAT A DAY.
WHY'D THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME? AND ON SUMMER VACATION, TOO!
YOU REALIZE THAT I'M THE ONE WHO HAD TO BABYSIT THOSE PSYCHOS ALL DAY, RIGHT?
.....
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WELL ...
WHAT DO WE DO?
WE JUST RIDE IT OUT AS BEST WE CAN. WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
YEAH ... FATE CAN REALLY SCREW WITH PEOPLE SOME-TIMES.
YOU'RE TELLING ME. I MEAN, A METEOR? SERI-OUSLY?
AH WELL. SINCE I'M A GUY AND ALL...

I'M GONNA HAVE TO LEAVE ALL THAT GIRL STUFF UP TO YOU.
WHAT ?!
HEY!!
You're a teenaged girl, too.
You too, Noe-chan.
Okay!
Everyone put their dirty underwear into this bag.
YOU'LL DO IT?!
HUH ?!
HMPH.
FINE ...
I GET THE FEELING THAT I'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING, BUT BUYING YOU EXPENSIVE ICE CREAM SINCE I JOINED THAT CLUB...
AND YOU'RE GOING TO OWE ME A LOT OF REEEALLY EXPENSIVE ICE CREAM FOR THIS. DEAL?
R-RIGHT ...
BUT YOU BETTER COME DOWNSTAIRS AND BE SOCIAL TOMORROW. GOT IT?

D-FRAGMENTS



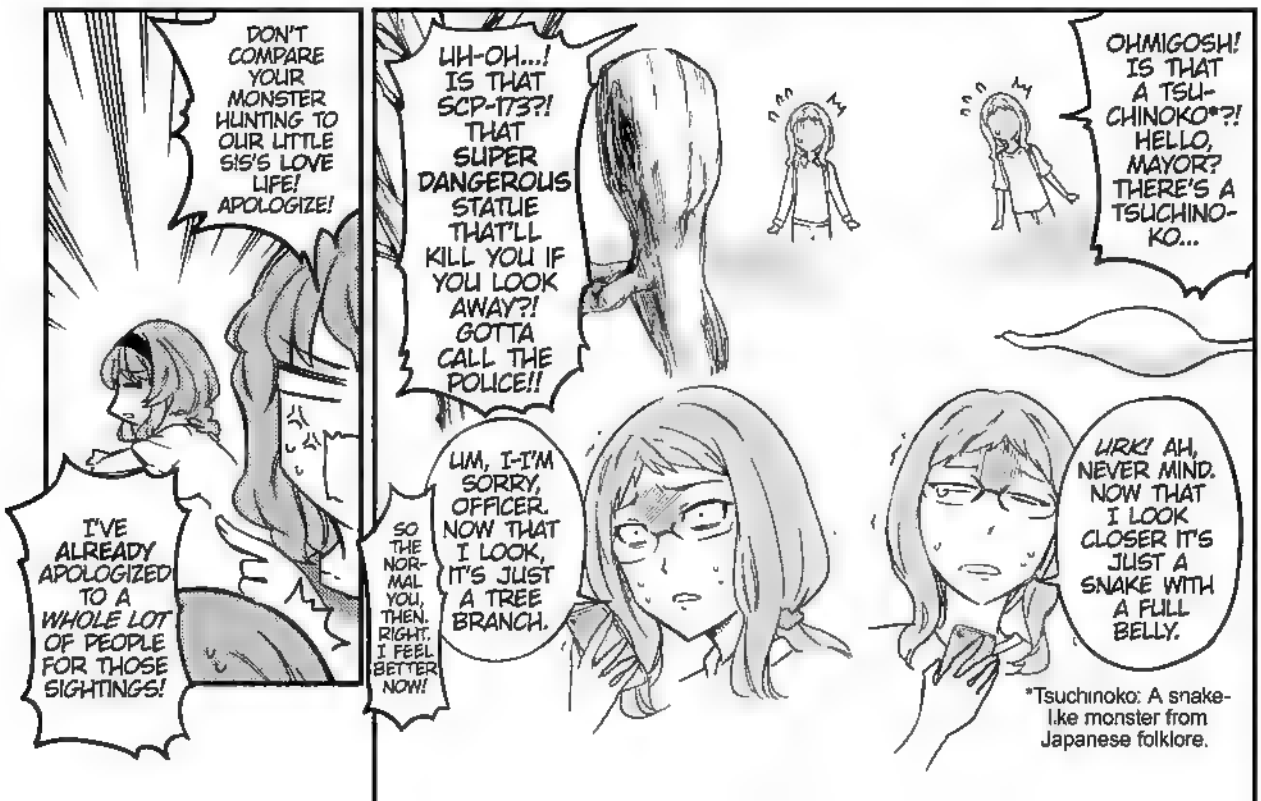
Bonus Manga #1
SIGH...

SHHHHIGH

IF ONLY WE COULD, Y'KNOW... TEXT EACH OTHER OR SOMETHING.
I FINALLY WORK UP THE COURAGE TO WAIT FOR HIM OUTSIDE HIS CLASS, AND HE'S NOT EVEN HERE.
AUGH! THAT DELIN-QUENT!
UM! N-NOT THAT I WAS WAITING FOR HIM OR ANY-THING!
I'M SORRY, KAZAMA-SAN CUT CLASS THIS AFTERNOON.
HE ISN'T COMING TO CLUB AGAIN...
You've been stopping by an awful lot lately, Takao-san.
Takao Visiting the (Temp) Club Yet Again
WHAT WOULD I EVEN WRITE? "HI! HOW YA DOIN? NICE WEATHER OUT, ISN'T IT! WAIT... ISN'T IT CLOUDY? NO, RAINY? BOY WE COULD SURE USE SOME RAIN AND UHHHHHH-HHHH- $%#@%$^&#%!!!"
quiver
quiver
quiver
KAZAMA KENJI
XXXX
@XXX
B-B-B-BUT I'VE NEVER SENT A TEXT TO HIM WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC PURPOSE BEFORE! I KNOW IT'S A TOTALLY NORMAL THING TO DO...B-B-BUT...!
AA- AAA- AAA- AAAAAAAAHHH!
AUGH! THE LONGER I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE NERVOUS I GET AND THE MORE NERVOUS I GET THE LESS I CAN THINK AND... AND...
AAAAA-AAAAH!!

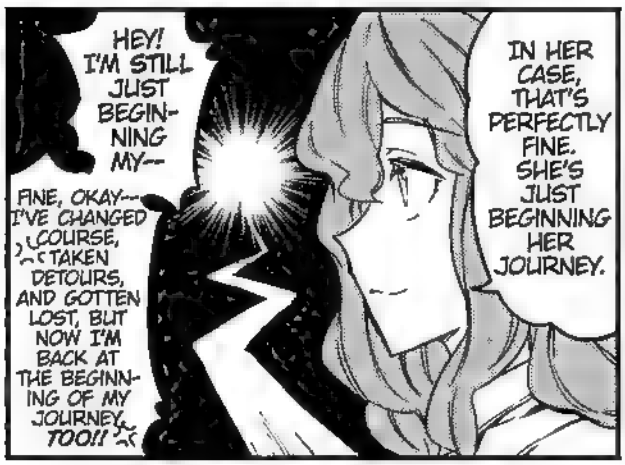
GAA-AAAH!! THIS IS DRIVING ME NUTS!!
NOW, NOW. CALM DOWN.
JUST SEND THE DAMN TEXT ALREADY !!
Tch!
Tch!

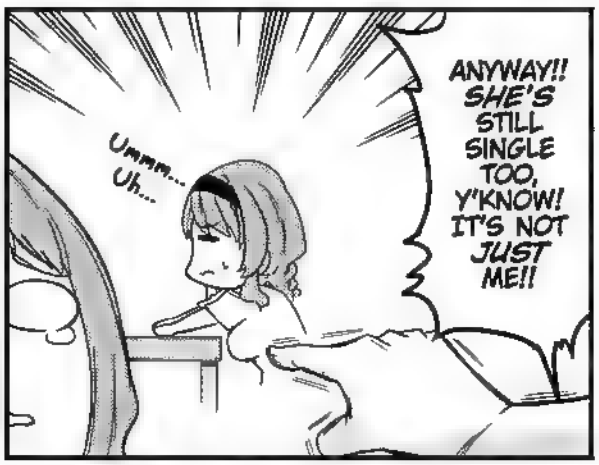
WHAT?! YOU?! REALLY ?!
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I GOT A LITTLE TOO ANXIOUS AND JUMPED THE GUN MYSELF, YEARS AGO...
BWUH? WOW, HOW COME YOU SOUND SO WISE ALL OF A SUDDEN, ANEKI?
? ?
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BEING "TOO CAREFUL" WHEN IT COMES TO THESE MATTERS.

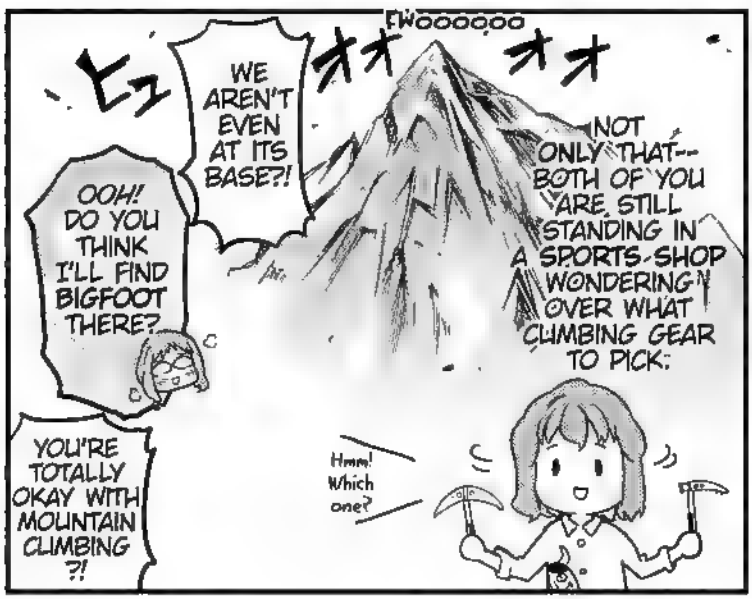

DON'T COMPARE YOUR MONSTER HUNTING TO OUR LITTLE SIS'S LOVE LIFE! APOLOGIZE!
I'VE ALREADY APOLOGIZED TO A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE FOR THOSE SIGHTINGS!
UH-OH...! IS THAT SCP-173?! THAT SUPER DANGEROUS STATUE THAT'LL KILL YOU IF YOU LOOK AWAY?! GOTTA CALL THE POLICE!!
SO THE NORMAL YOU, THEN. RIGHT. I FEEL BETTER NOW!
UM, I-I'M SORRY, OFFICER. NOW THAT I LOOK, IT'S JUST A TREE BRANCH.
OHMIGOSH! IS THAT A TSU-CHINOKO*?! HELLO, MAYOR? THERE'S A TSUCHINO-KO...
URK! AH, NEVER MIND. NOW THAT I LOOK CLOSER IT'S JUST A SNAKE WITH A FULL BELLY.
*Tsuchinoko: A snake-like monster from Japanese folklore.

IF YOU WANT TO ARGUE WITH SOMEONE, WHY DON'T YOU ARGUE WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?
OH, I'M SORRY. OR WERE YOU DUMPED... AGAIN.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
WELL, I AM YOUR MOTHER.

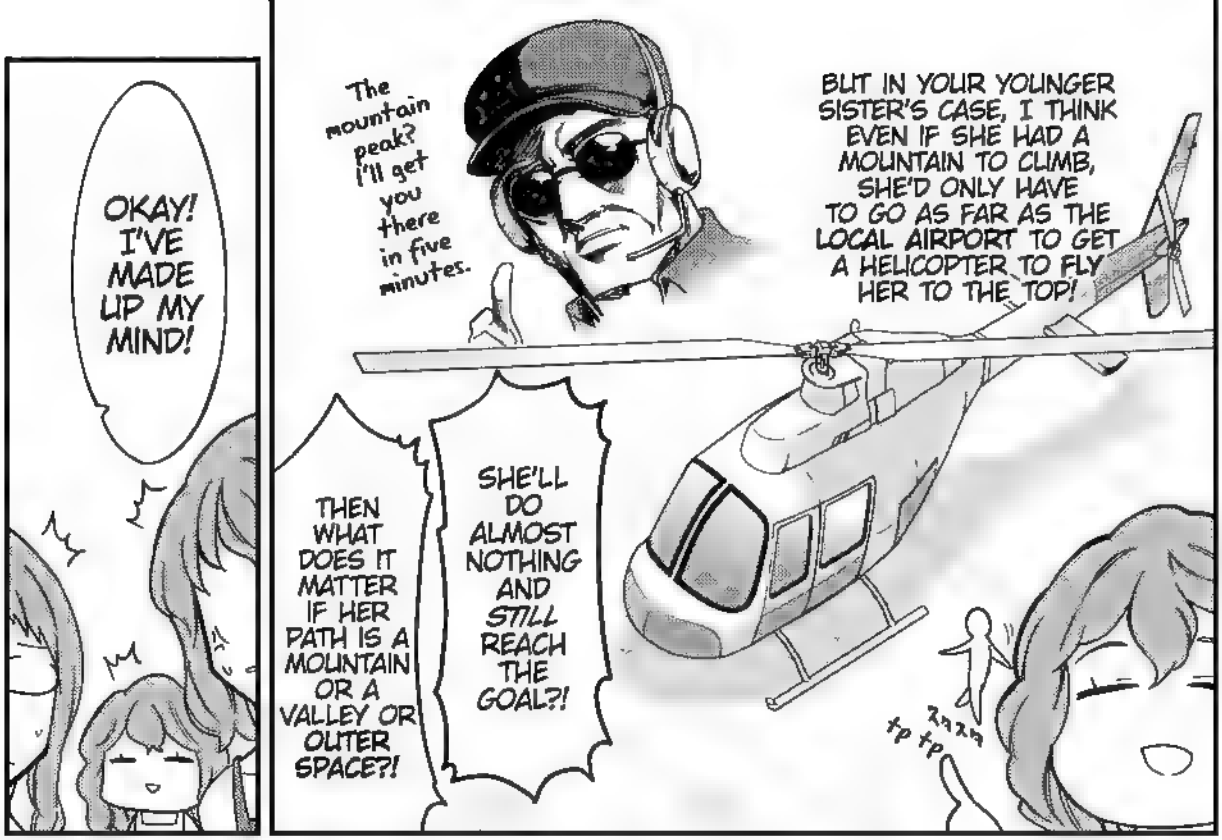
NOW, NOW, GIRLS. IT ISN'T NICE TO ARGUE~!
ALIGH! MOM'S HERE AGAIN!!
OF COURSE I AM. I LIVE HERE, AFTER ALL.


IN HER CASE, THAT'S PERFECTLY FINE. SHE'S JUST BEGINNING HER JOURNEY.
HEY! I'M STILL JUST BEGIN-NING MY--
FINE, OKAY--I'VE CHANGED COURSE, TAKEN DETOURS, AND GOTTEN LOST, BUT NOW I'M BACK AT THE BEGINN-ING OF MY JOURNEY, TOO!!

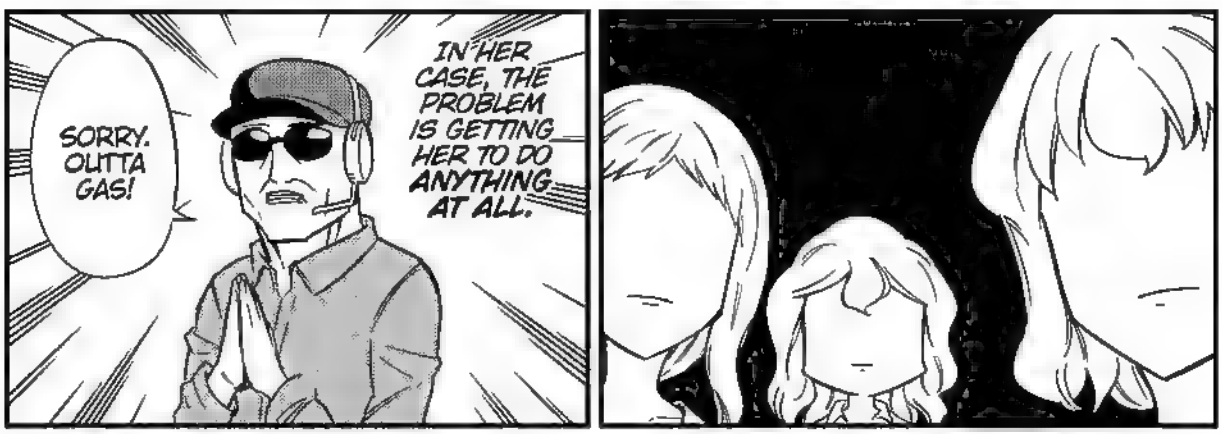

ANYWAY!! SHE'S STILL SINGLE TOO, Y'KNOW! IT'S NOT JUST ME!!
Ummm... Uh...


WE AREN'T EVEN AT ITS BASE?!
OOH! DO YOU THINK I'LL FIND BIGFOOT THERE?
YOU'RE TOTALLY OKAY WITH MOUNTAIN CLIMBING ?!
NOT ONLY THAT-- BOTH OF YOU ARE STILL STANDING IN A SPORTS SHOP WONDERING OVER WHAT CLIMBING GEAR TO PICK:
Hmm! Which one?

YOUR JOURNEY ISN'T SO SIMPLE. BOTH OF YOU WILL HAVE TO CLIMB MOUNTAINS THAT SHAME MT. EVEREST TO REACH LOVE.
GLEAM
HUH?! IT'S THAT BAD?


OKAY! I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
The mountain peak? I'll get you there in five minutes.
BUT IN YOUR YOUNGER SISTER'S CASE, I THINK EVEN IF SHE HAD A MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB, SHE'D ONLY HAVE TO GO AS FAR AS THE LOCAL AIRPORT TO GET A HELICOPTER TO FLY HER TO THE TOP!
THEN WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF HER PATH IS A MOUNTAIN OR A VALLEY OR OUTER SPACE?!
SHE'LL DO ALMOST NOTHING AND STILL REACH THE GOAL?!
tp tp

I'LL DO IT TOMORROW.
Yeah...


SORRY. OUTTA GAS!
IN HER CASE, THE PROBLEM IS GETTING HER TO DO ANYTHING AT ALL.

END

Huh? Where's my phone?
It's not in here. Did I leave it at school?
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE

D-FRAGMENTS

ディーふらぐ!

Bonus Manga #2
Fujo Academy Semester Finals, Graded Tests Returned
YIKES! I KNEW IT SEEMED WAY HARDER THIS TIME AROUND.
WHEW! JUST BARELY PASSED.
YAMA-NAKA!
HERE!
WHAT'D YOU GET?
I'M SO SCREW-ED.

THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR NOT STUDY-ING.
WANNA STOP SOME-WHERE ON THE WAY HOME?
UGH. I JUST DON'T WANNA THINK ANY-MORE.
JEEZ, QUES-TION #4 WAS A KILLER!

WHEW...

YESSS.
YEAH.
Hn.
DID EVERY-ONE GET THEIR TESTS BACK?

KTUNK

Urk!
THERE WILL BE RETESTS FOR ANYONE WITH SCORES BELOW 42.

HM? FUNABORI?
ME? WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU OKAY? WAIT, WHAT KIND OF "OKAY" ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UM... K-KAZAMA-SAN?
tp tp tp

AH. THEY AREN'T PRETTY, BUT I DIDN'T FAIL ANYTHING, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.
!
OH, YOU MEAN FINALS?

?
?
I-IF YOU DON'T MIND, I COULD HELP YOU...

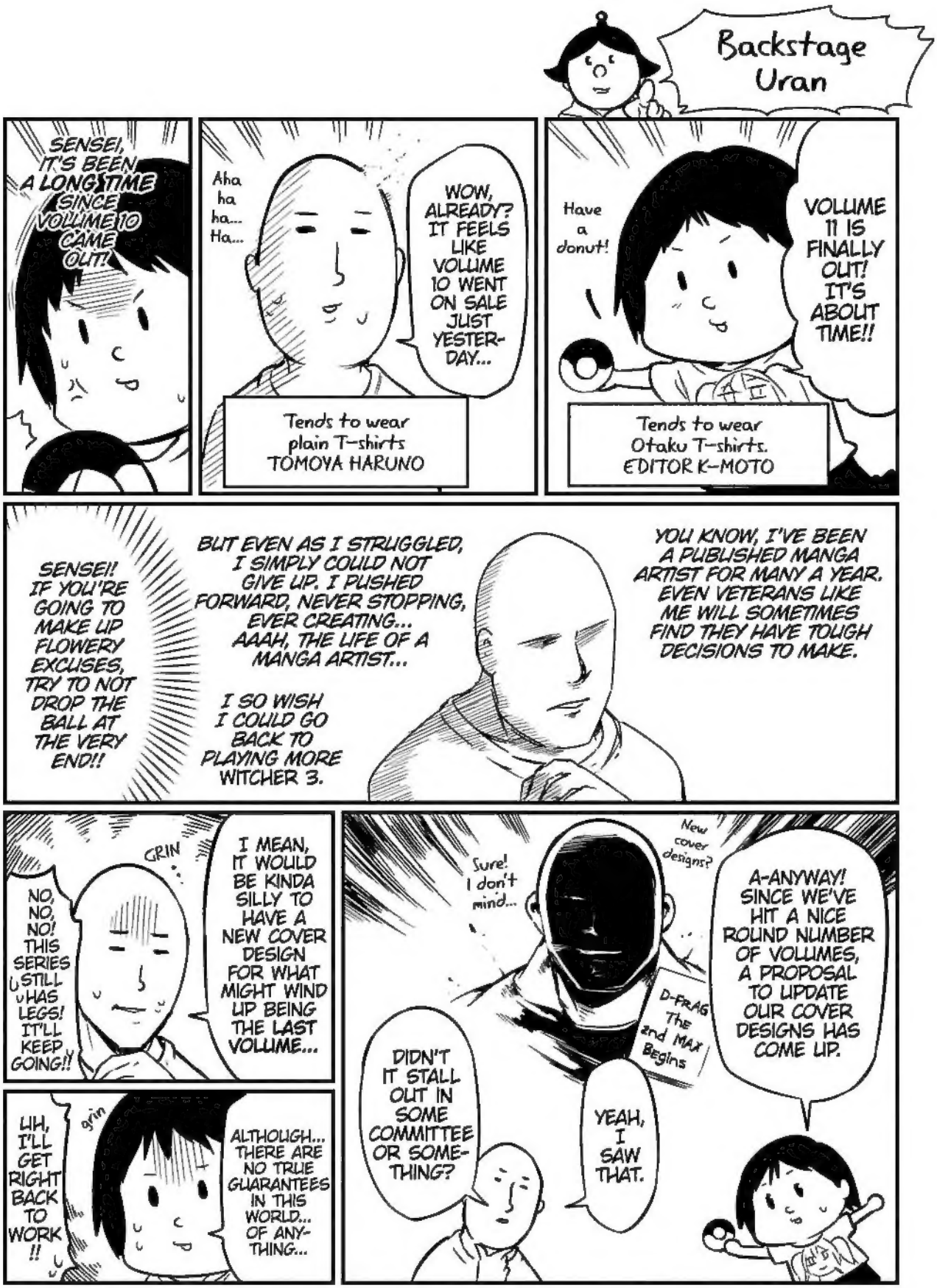
STILL...I APPRECIATE THE OFFER. IF I DO FLUNK SOME-THING LATER, COULDJA HELP ME STUDY THEN?
....

OH-MI-GOSH, I'M SORRY!
!
I PROB-ABLY DO.
WHY? DO I LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF GUY WHO FLUNKS HIS TESTS?

I'M SORRY!!
GOD, SHE SAID NO FAST!
END
OH NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF! I ACTUALLY HOPED THAT KAZAMA-SAN WOULD FLUNK A TEST! I'M AN AWFUL HUMAN BEING!

Aha! Now it makes sense.
Here you want to do this and then this. See?
WHAT ...?

I CAN'T SLEEP ...!!
ba-dmp
ba-dmp
ba-dmp
ba-dmp


Backstage Uran
SENSEI, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE VOLUME 10 CAME OUT!
Aha ha ha... Ha...
WOW, ALREADY? IT FEELS LIKE VOLUME 10 WENT ON SALE JUST YESTERDAY...
Tends to wear plain T-shirts TOMOYA HARUNO
Have a donut!
VOLUME 11 IS FINALLY OUT! IT'S ABOUT TIME!!
Tends to wear Otaku T-shirts. EDITOR K-MOTO
SENSEI! IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE UP FLOWERY EXCUSES, TRY TO NOT DROP THE BALL AT THE VERY END!!
BUT EVEN AS I STRUGGLED, I SIMPLY COULD NOT GIVE UP. I PUSHED FORWARD, NEVER STOPPING, EVER CREATING... AAAH, THE LIFE OF A MANGA ARTIST...
I SO WISH I COULD GO BACK TO PLAYING MORE WITCHER 3.
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN A PUBLISHED MANGA ARTIST FOR MANY A YEAR. EVEN VETERANS LIKE ME WILL SOMETIMES FIND THEY HAVE TOUGH DECISIONS TO MAKE.
GRIN
NO, NO, NO! THIS SERIES STILL HAS LEGS! IT'LL KEEP GOING!!
I MEAN, IT WOULD BE KINDA SILLY TO HAVE A NEW COVER DESIGN FOR WHAT MIGHT WIND UP BEING THE LAST VOLUME...
grin
UH, I'LL GET RIGHT BACK TO WORK!!
ALTHOUGH... THERE ARE NO TRUE GUARANTEES IN THIS WORLD... OF ANY-THING...
Sure! I don't mind...
New cover designs?
D-FRAG The 2nd MAX Begins
A-ANYWAY! SINCE WE'VE HIT A NICE ROUND NUMBER OF VOLUMES, A PROPOSAL TO UPDATE OUR COVER DESIGNS HAS COME UP.
DIDN'T IT STALL OUT IN SOME COMMITTEE OR SOME-THING?
YEAH, I SAW THAT.

SPECIAL THANKS!!
NAOTO AYANO-SAN, BAKU MIKAGE-SAN, HIROSHI HIROYAMA-SAN, YUKINOJOU-SAN, KAWAMOTO-SAN (EDITOR), LIGHTNING TOMIYAMA-SAN (COVER DESIGN), AND MY WONDERFUL READERS!!

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

D-FRAG!

story and art by **TOMOYA HARUNO**

VOLUME 11

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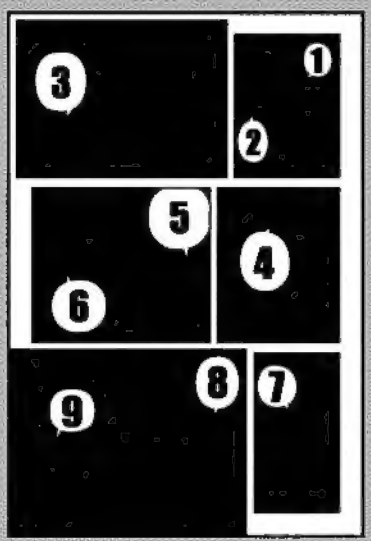
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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FATE HAS A WAY OF SCREWIN' YOU OVER

It's been almost half a year since Kazama Kenji first walked through the door to the Game Dev. Club (Temp) and summer vacation is just around the corner. But first Kenji and co. have to deal with first semester finals...which means it's time for an epic cram session!

However, their school woes are soon overshadowed when a meteor strikes the Shibasaki family home! With nowhere else to go, Roka has to move in with the Kazama family. As if that isn't enough to grate on Kenji's nerves, Takao and Roka's sister Tsutsuji come following in short order! Does he even have enough comebacks in him to deal with all the incoming shenanigans?!

Rated: TEEN

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